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Geronimo Stilton

# THE FIRST SAMURAI



PAPERCUT 



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## **THE FIRST SAMURAI**

**By Geronimo Stilton**



**PAPERCUT**   
NEW YORK



THE FIRST SAMURAI  
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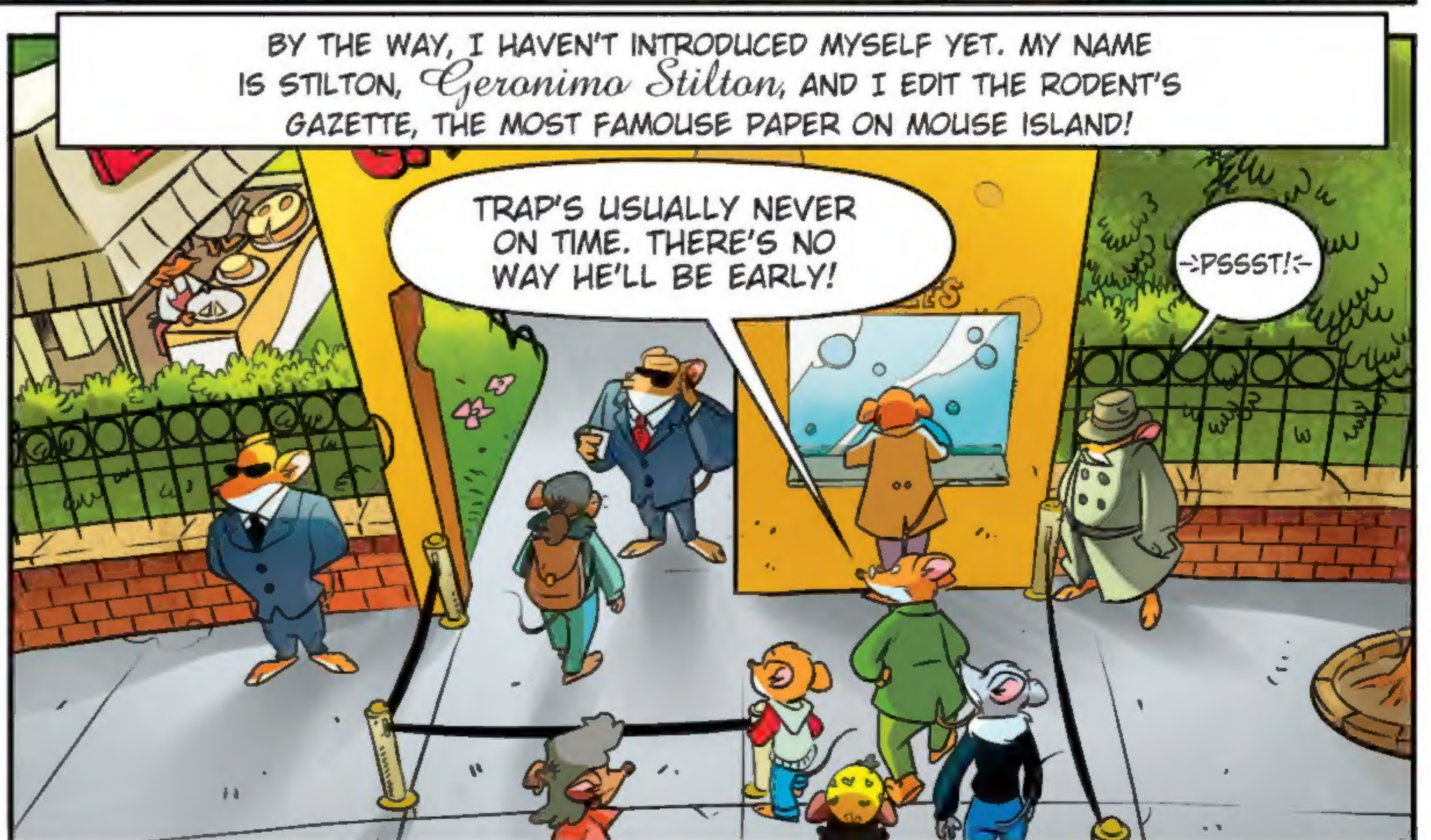
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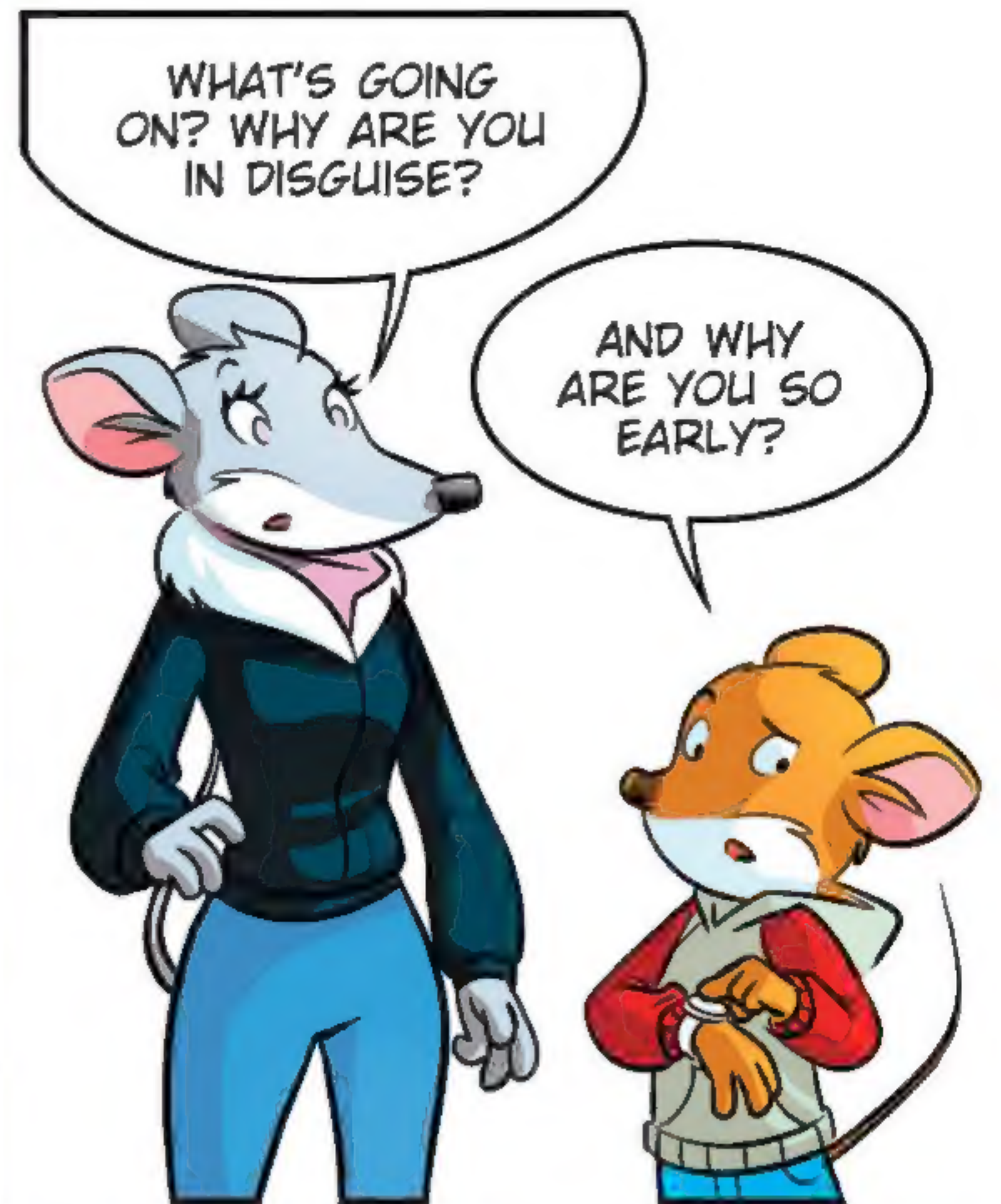
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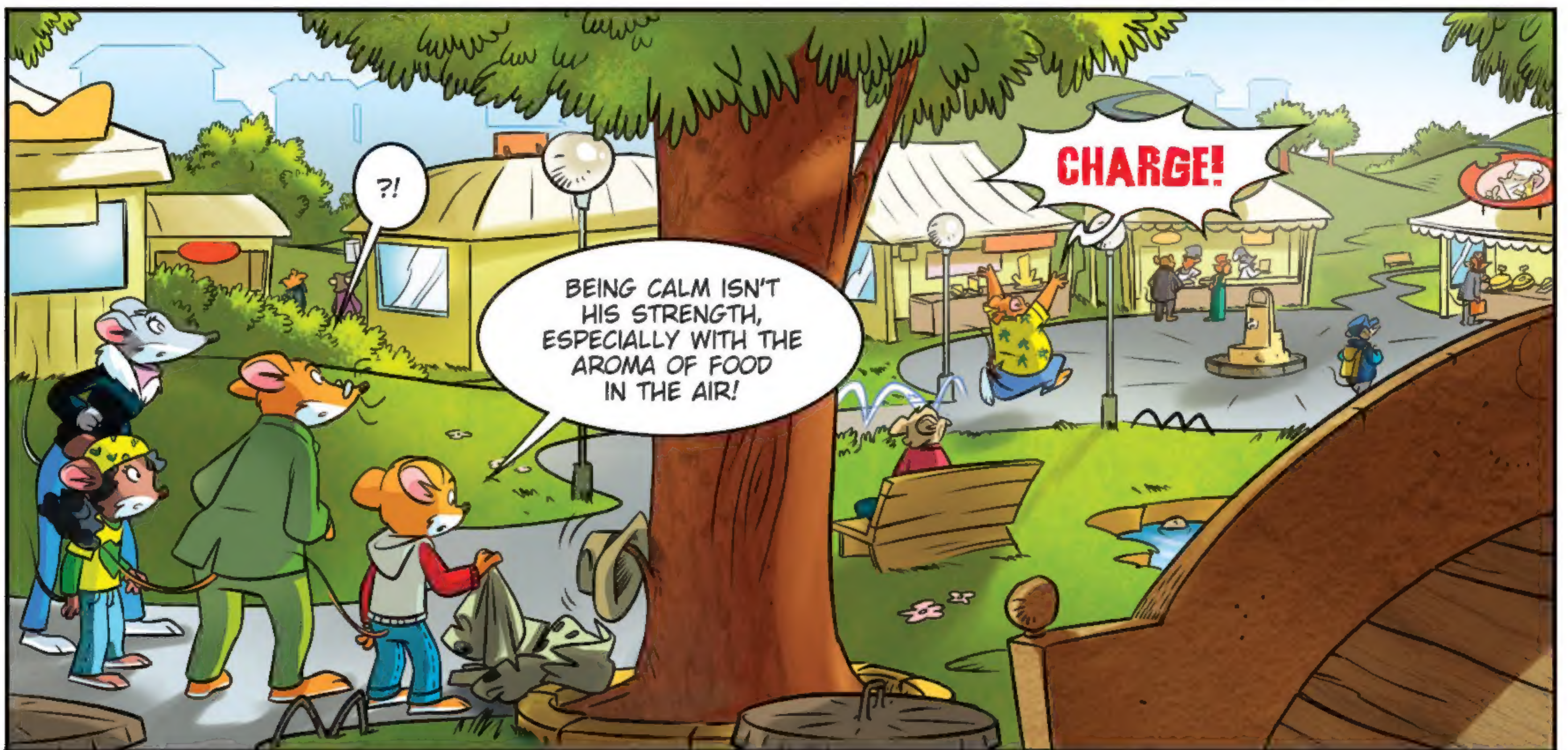
INCREDIBLE... I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D STILL REMEMBER ME...

MAYBE THIS TIME YOU'LL BEHAVE, SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO RUN THIS RISK NEXT YEAR!



TRY TO STAY CALM AND DON'T GET YOURSELF NOTICED AS YOU USUALLY DO...

ER-- UNCLE...



CHARGE!

BEING CALM ISN'T HIS STRENGTH, ESPECIALLY WITH THE AROMA OF FOOD IN THE AIR!

?!



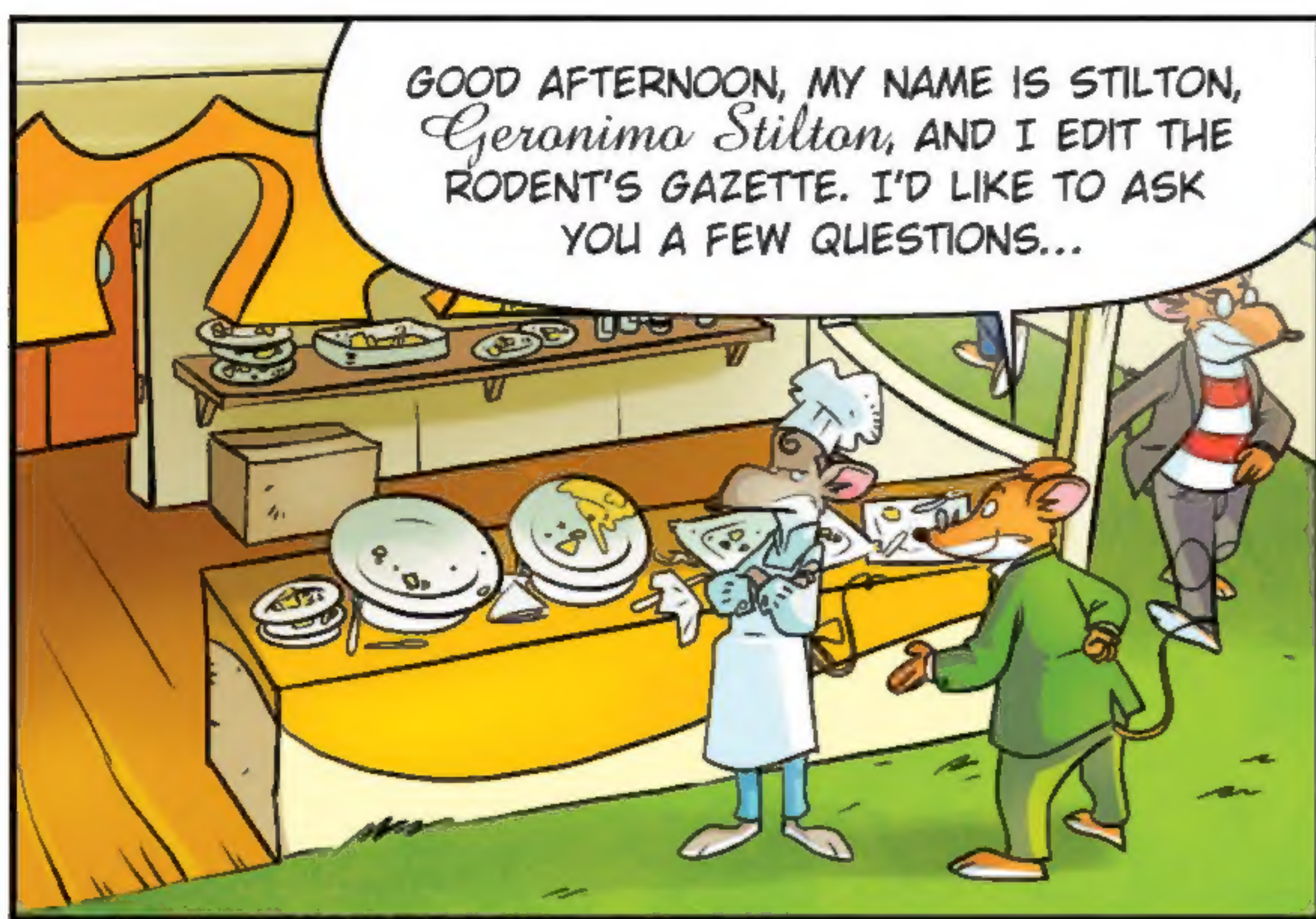
IT'S REALLY STRONGER THAN HE IS, HUH?

HE'S THE BIGGEST GLUTTON OF ANY RAT I'VE EVER KNOWN...

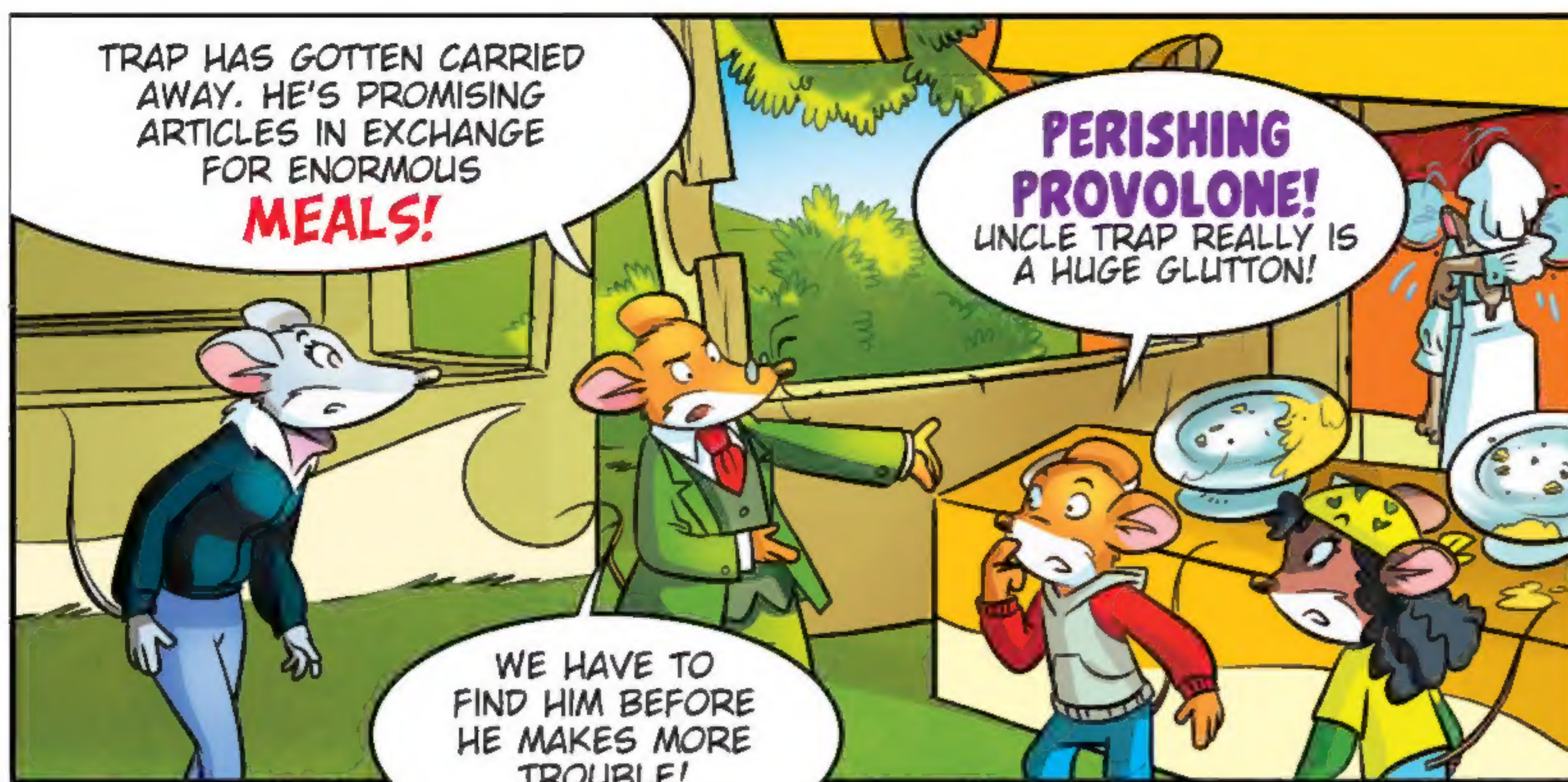


I'M CURIOUS TO SEE HOW HE'S GOING TO CONVINCE THE CHEFS TO LET HIM SAMPLE THEIR SPECIALTIES... BUT NOW I HAVE TO DO A FEW **INTERVIEWS.**

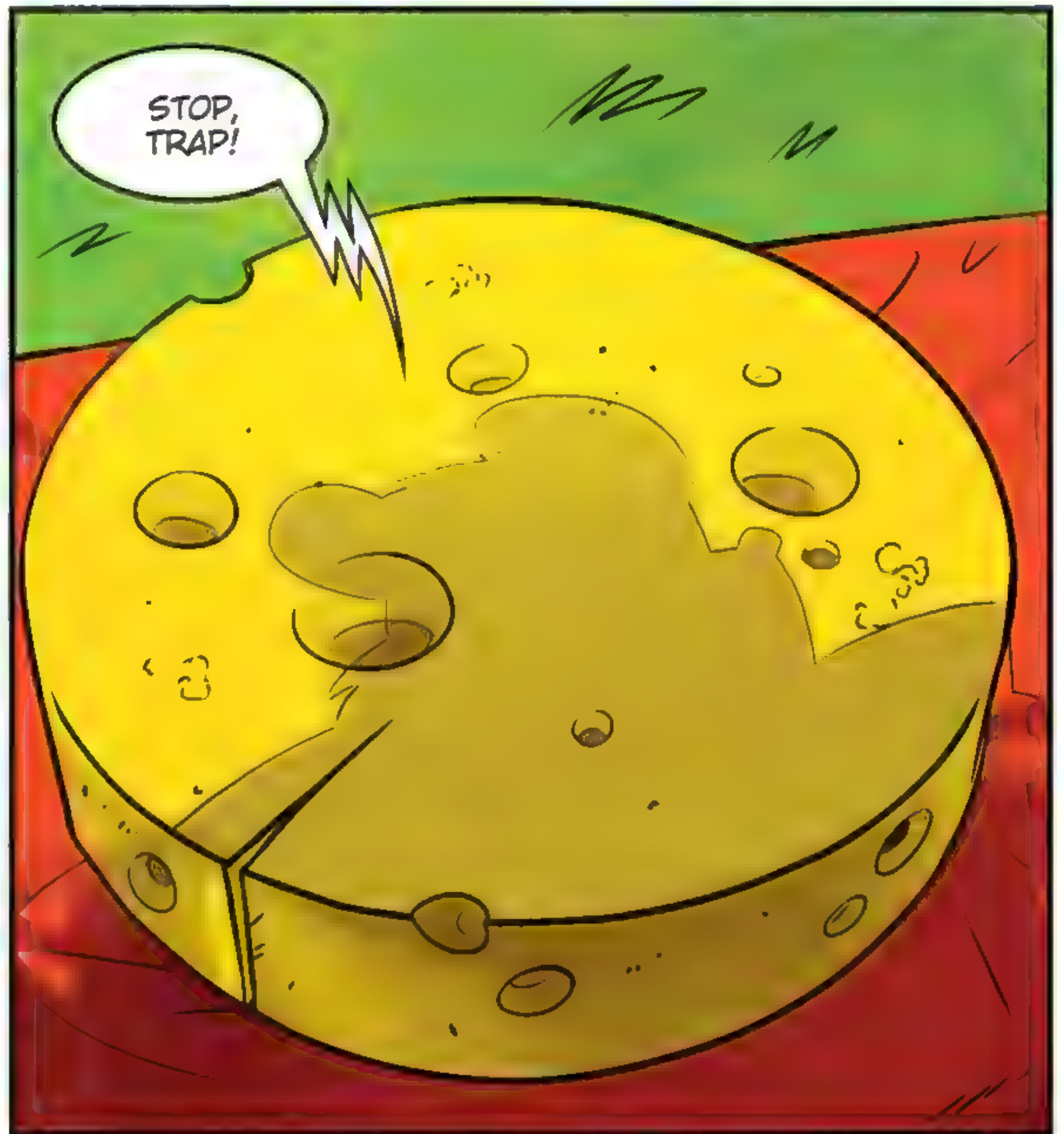




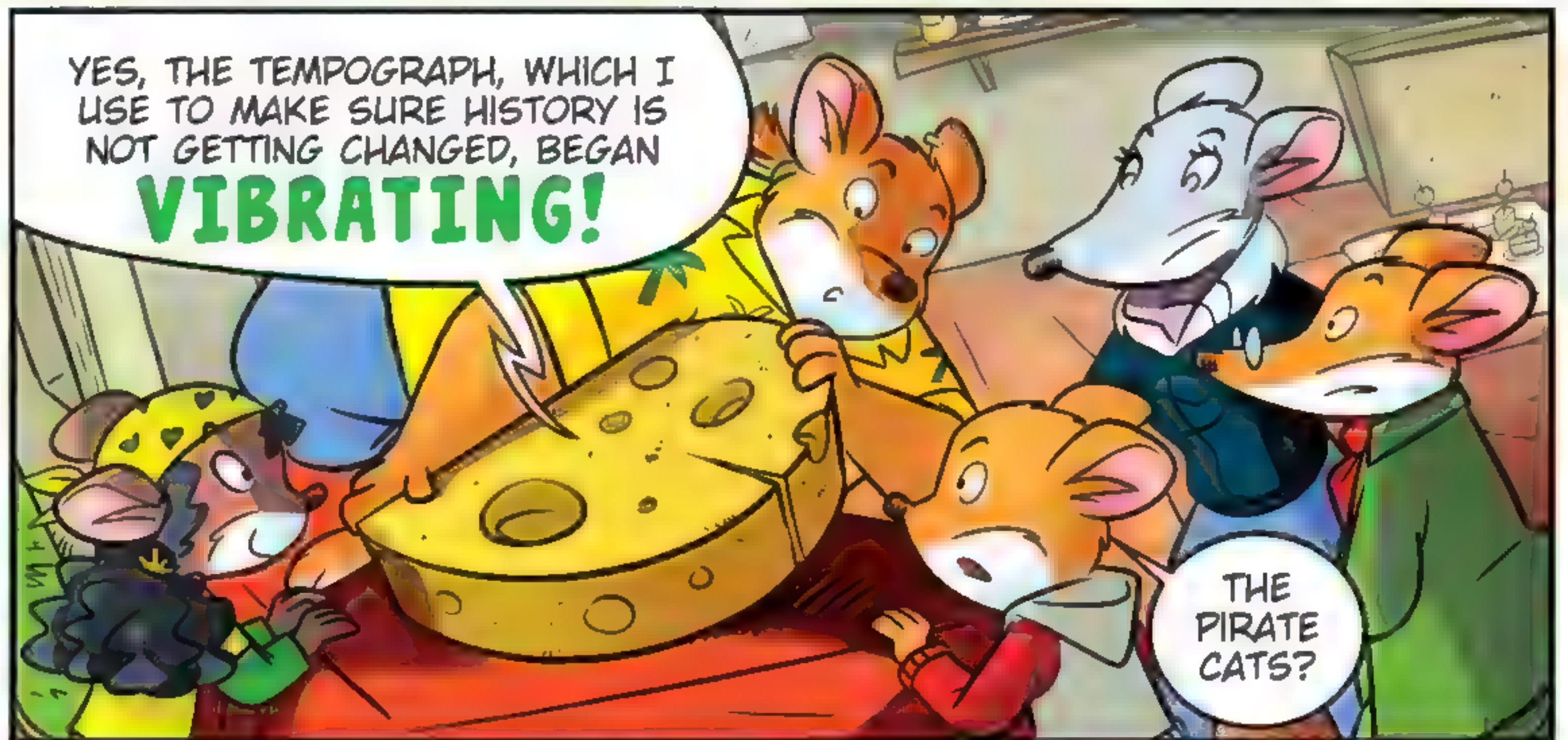
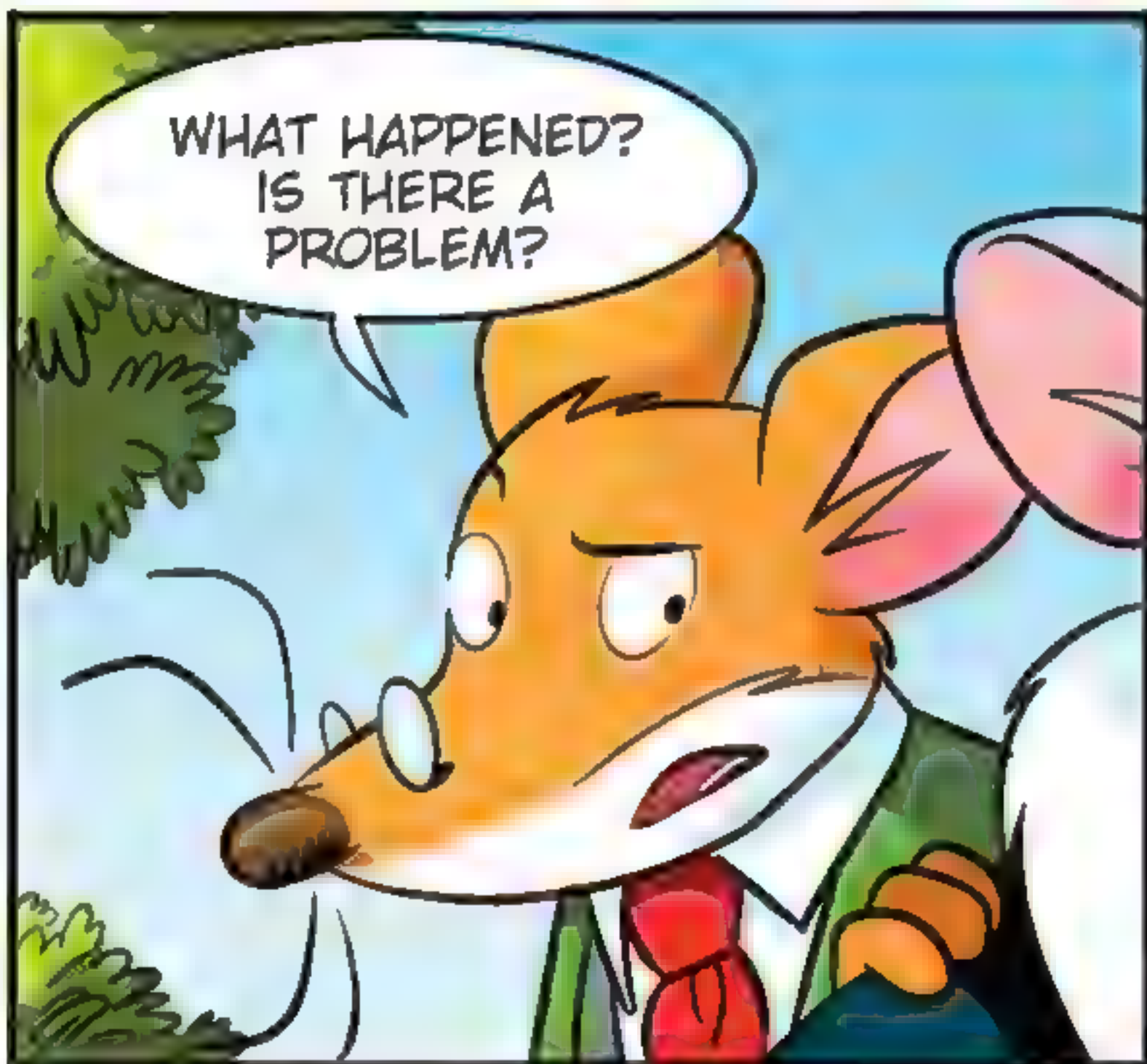




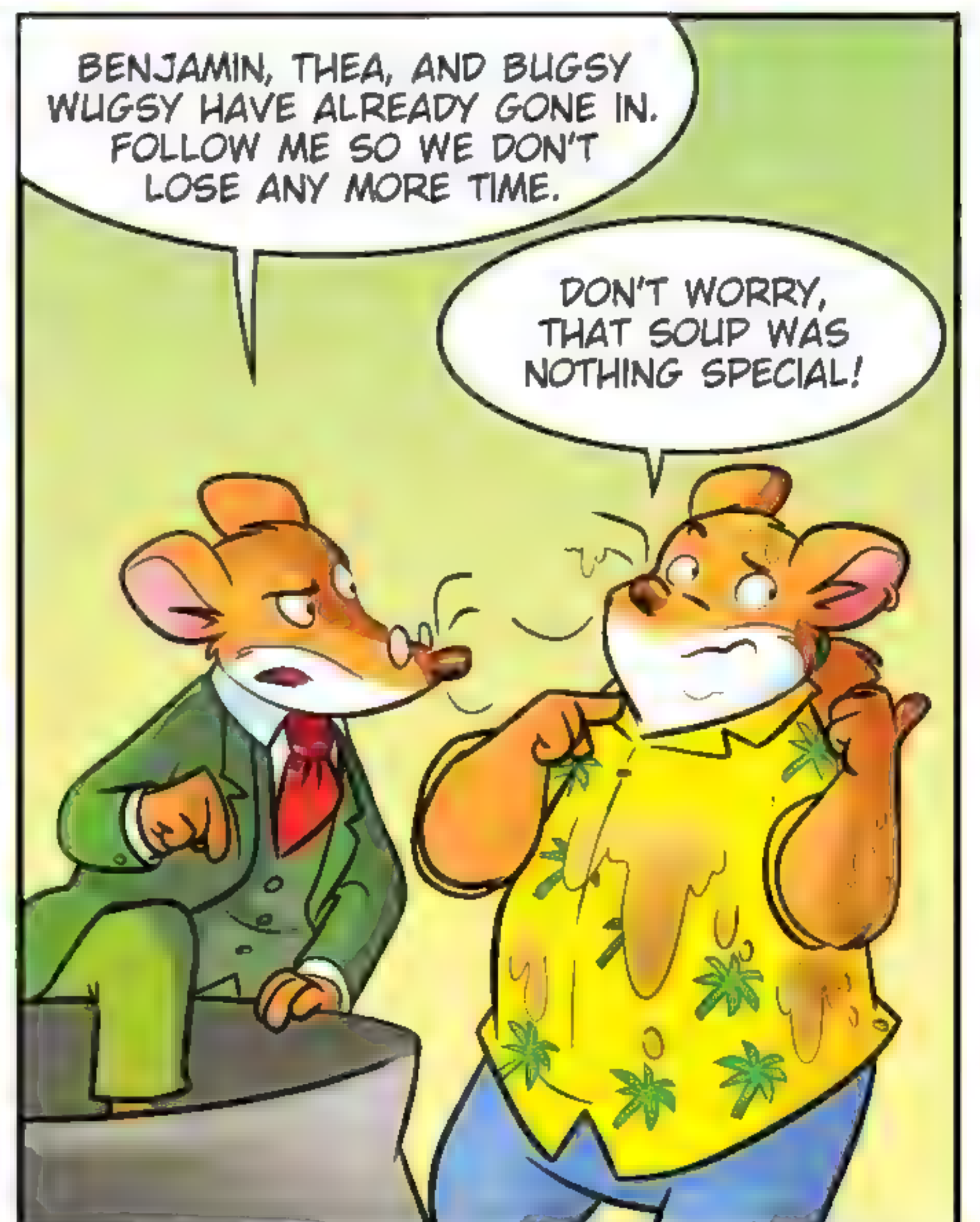
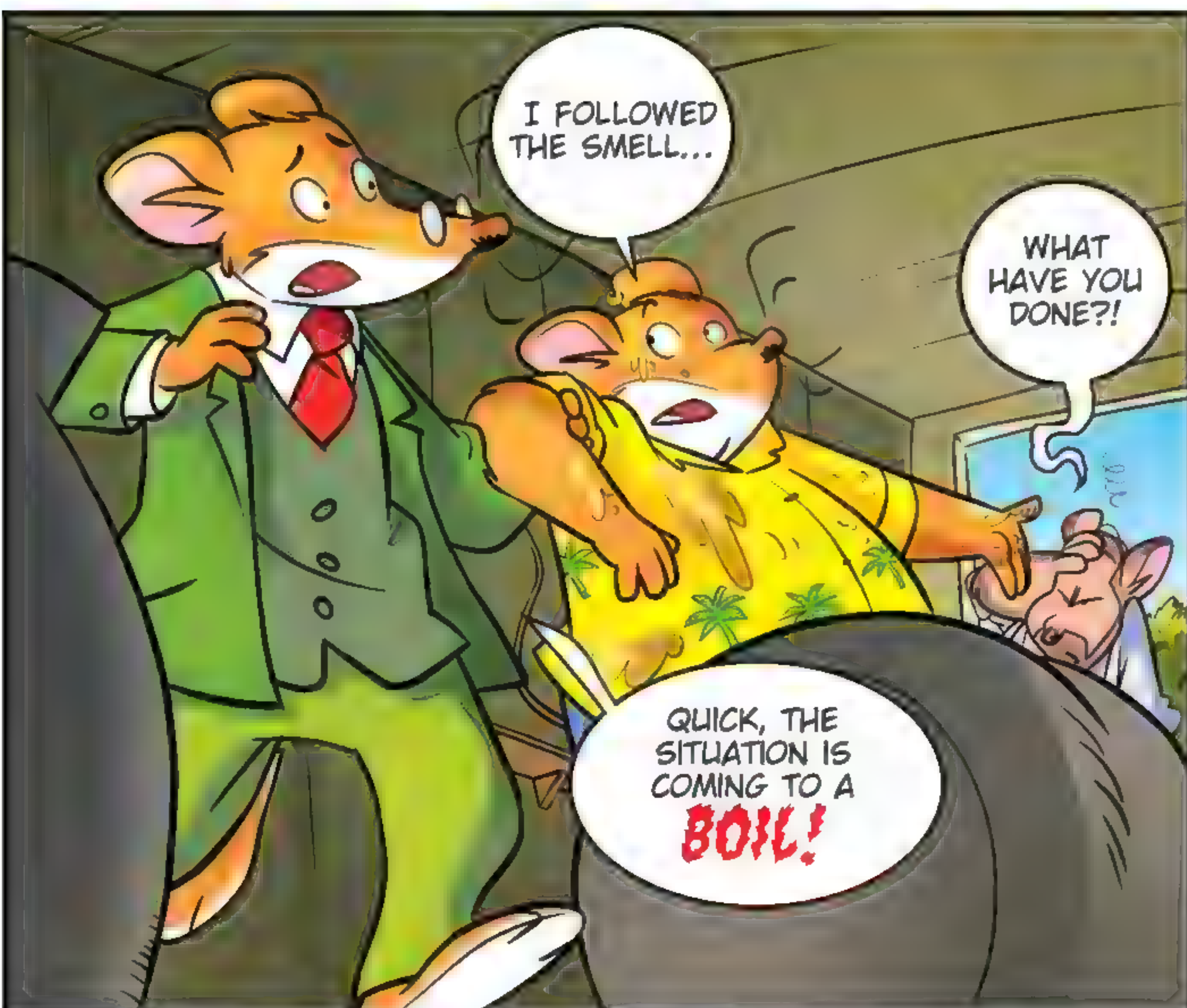
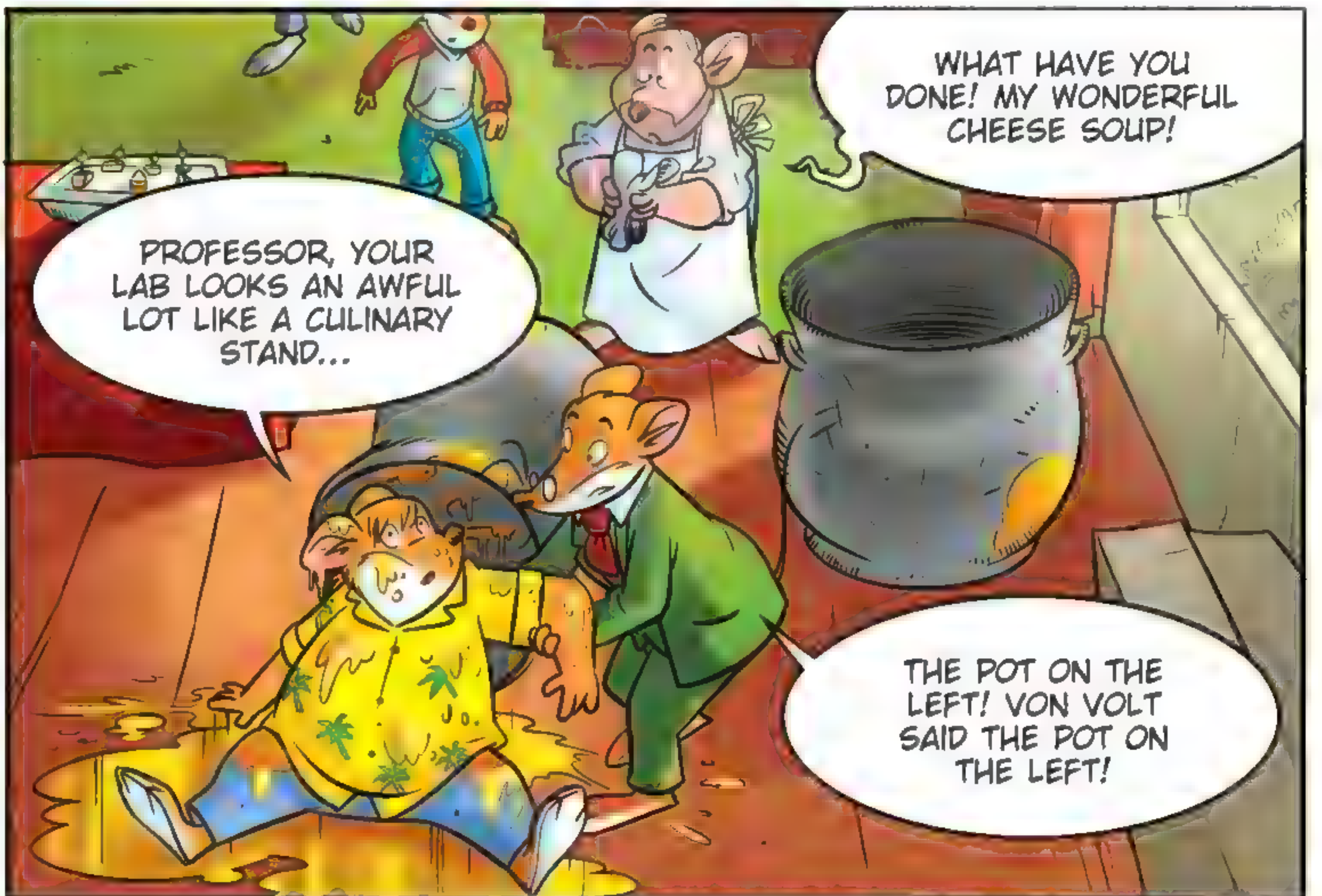




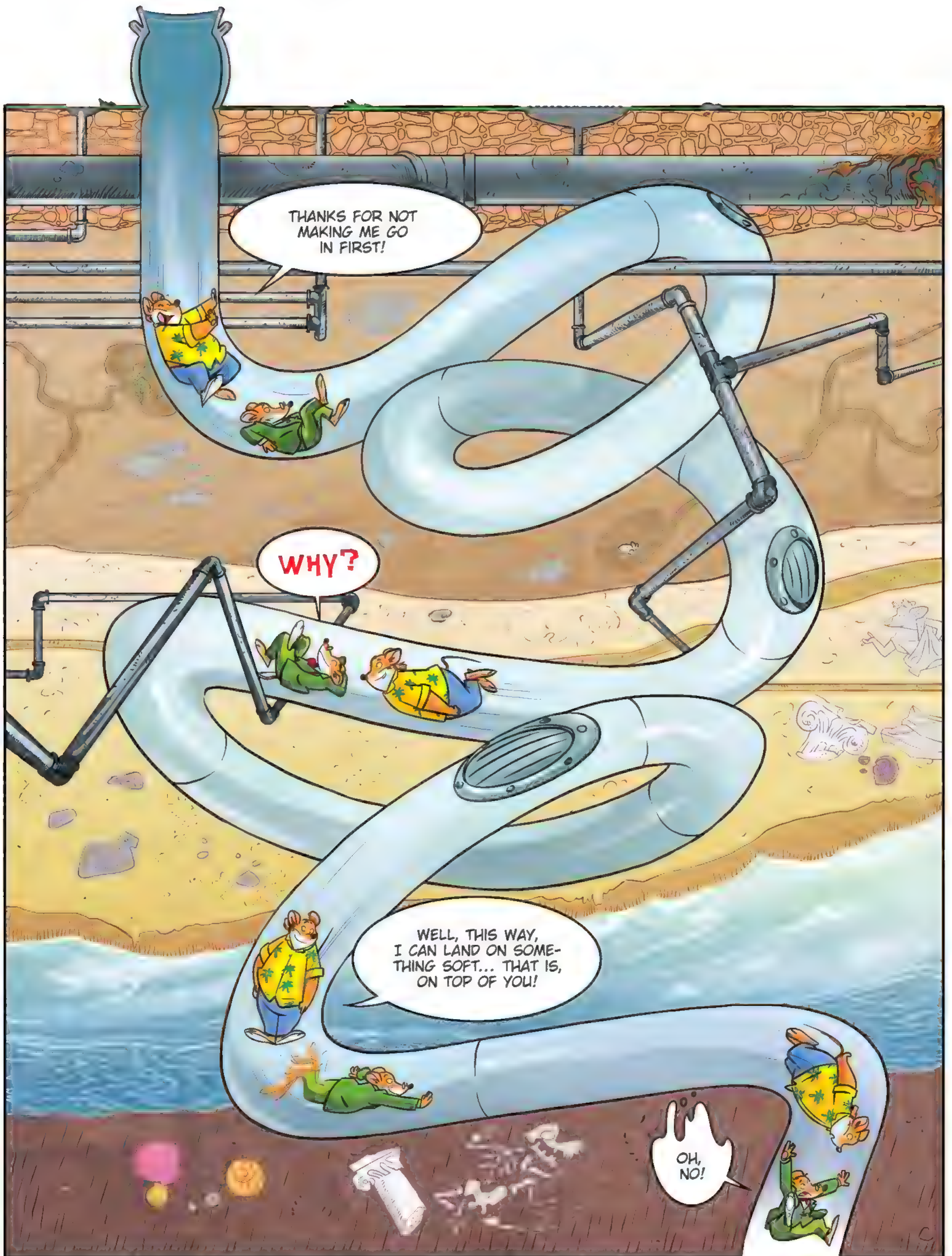




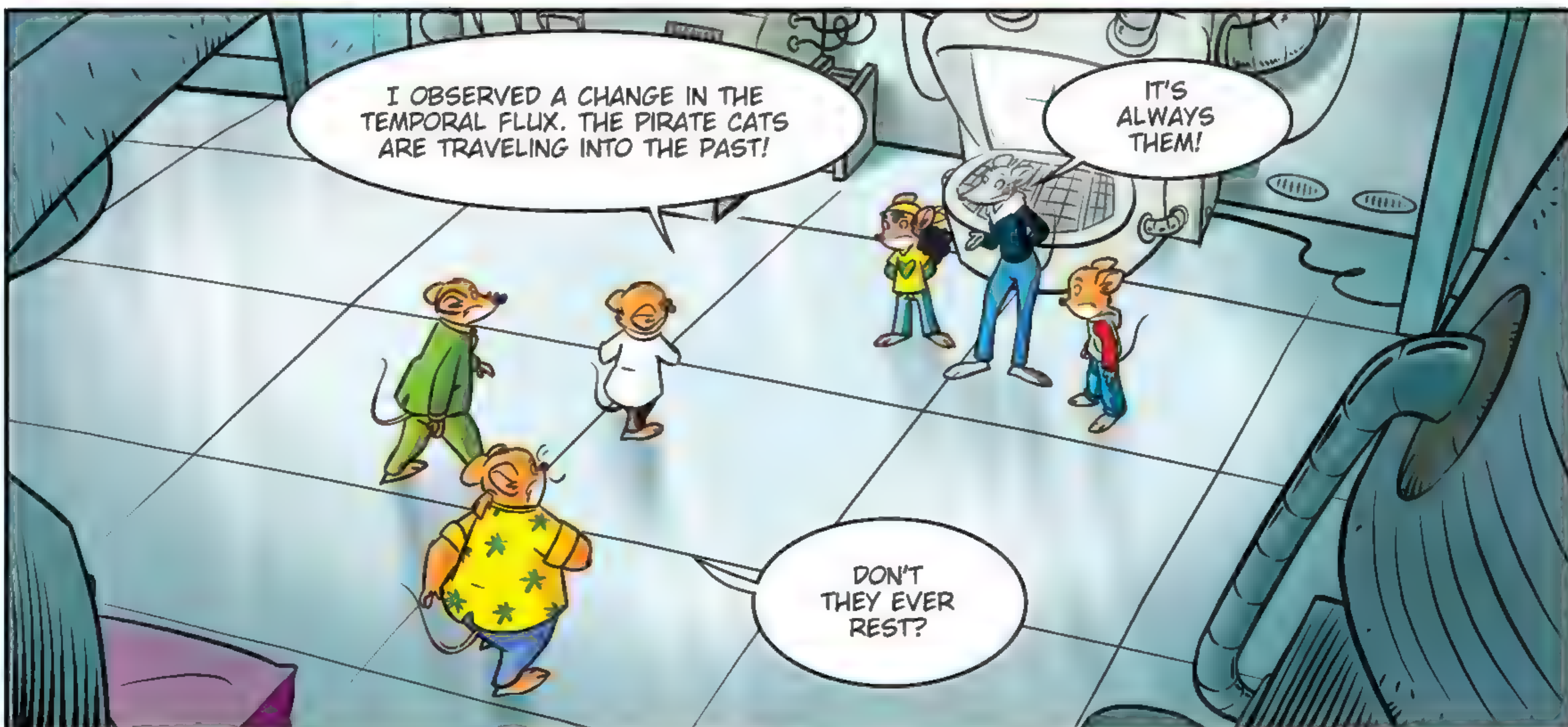




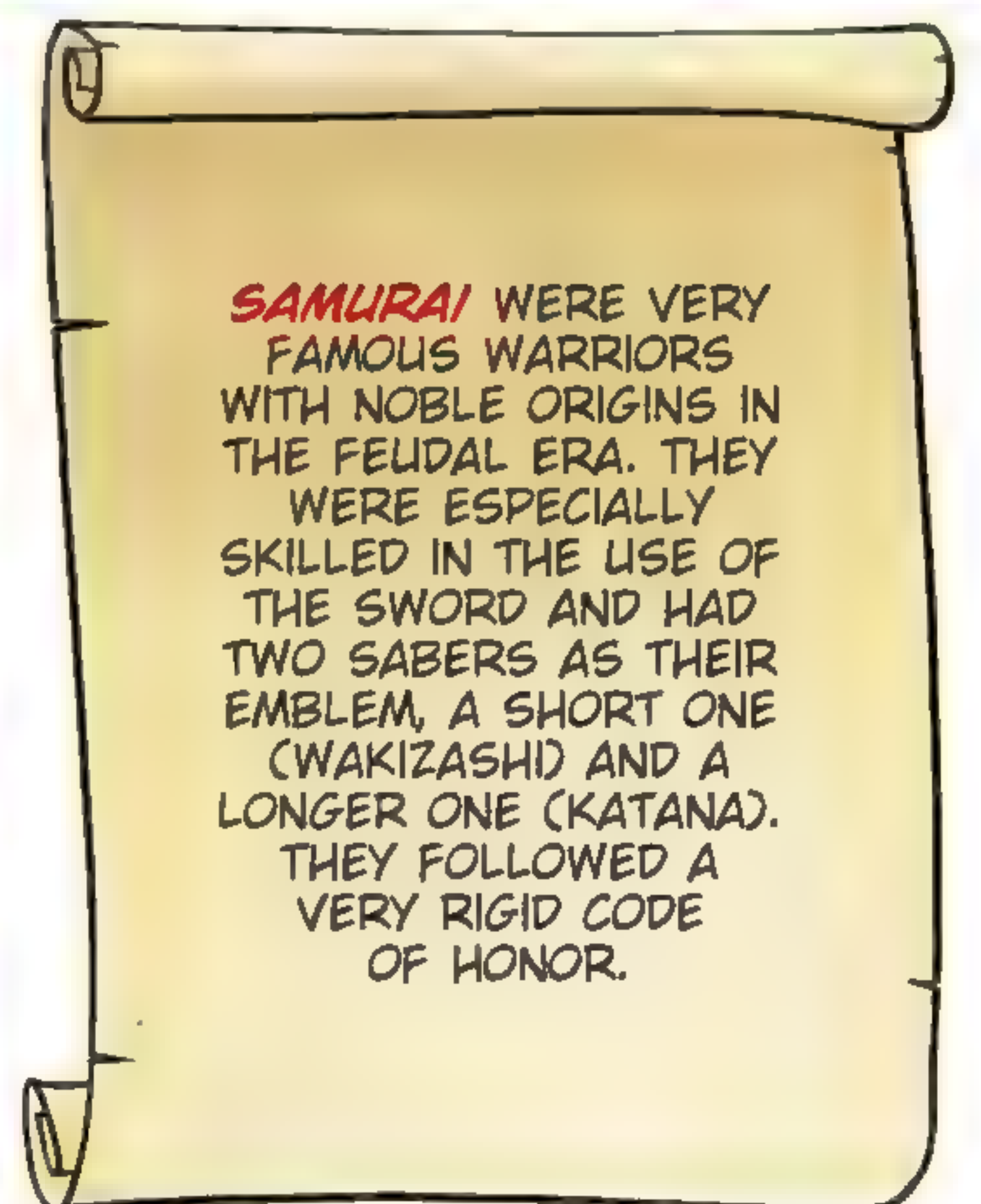
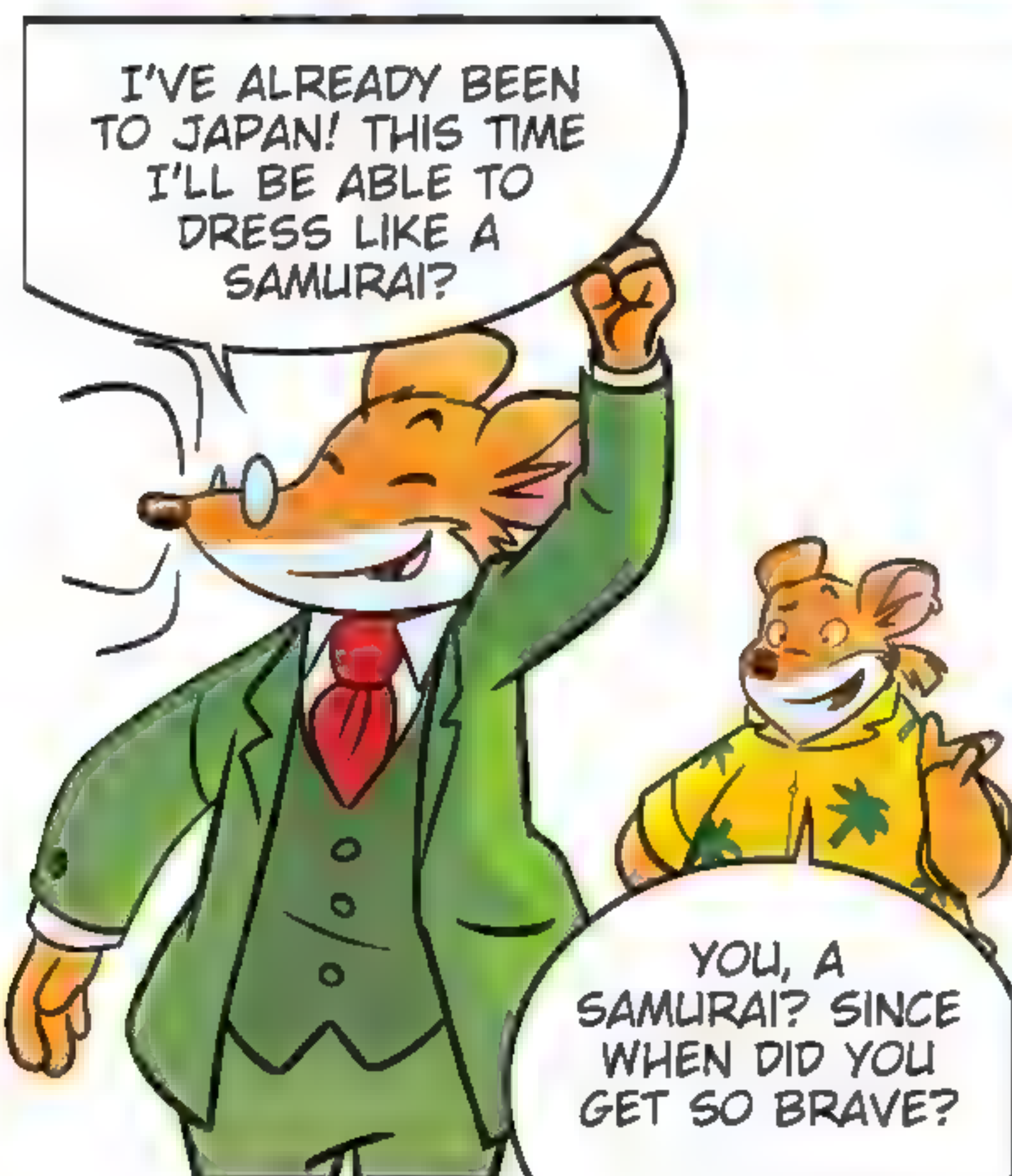
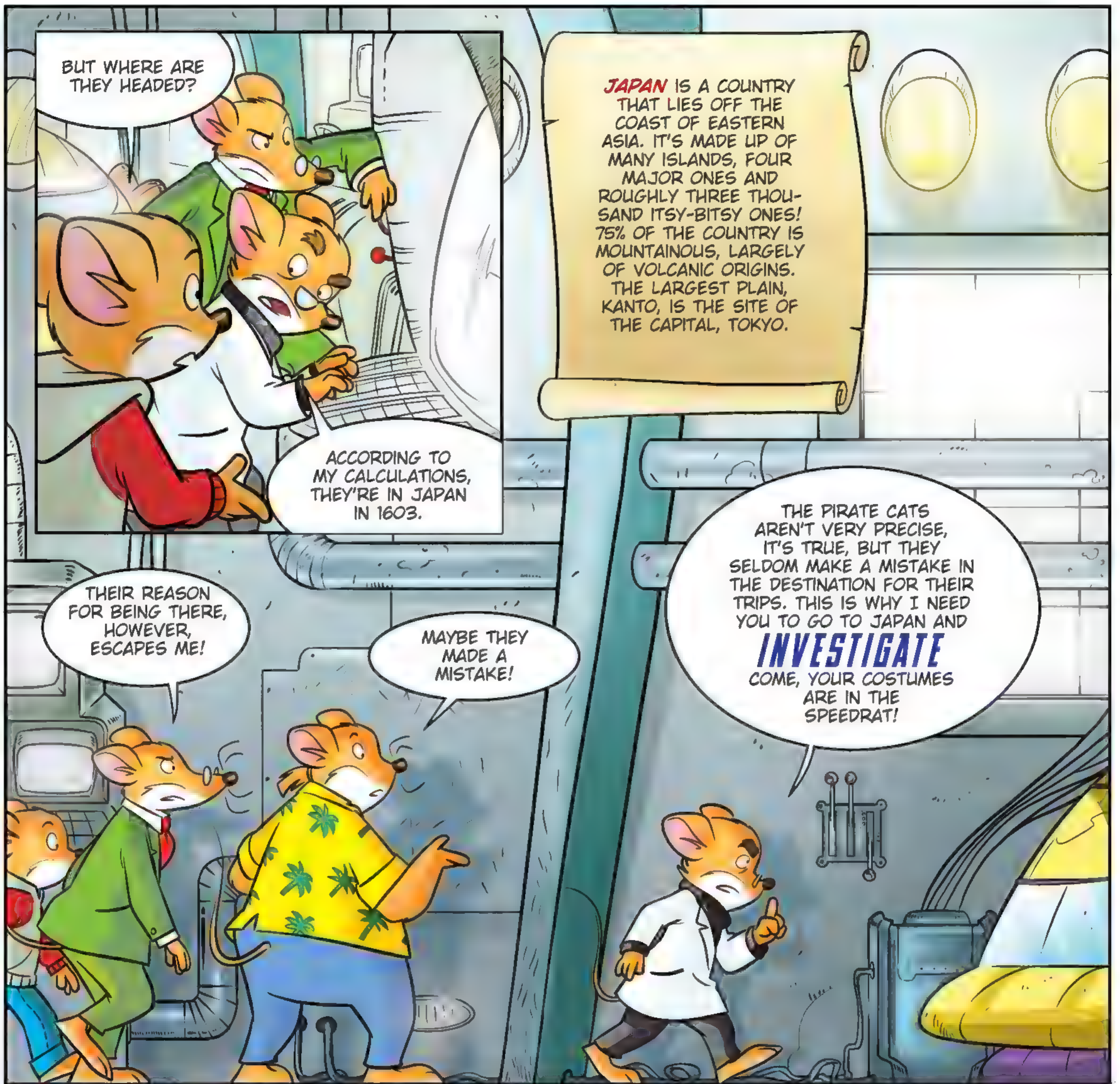




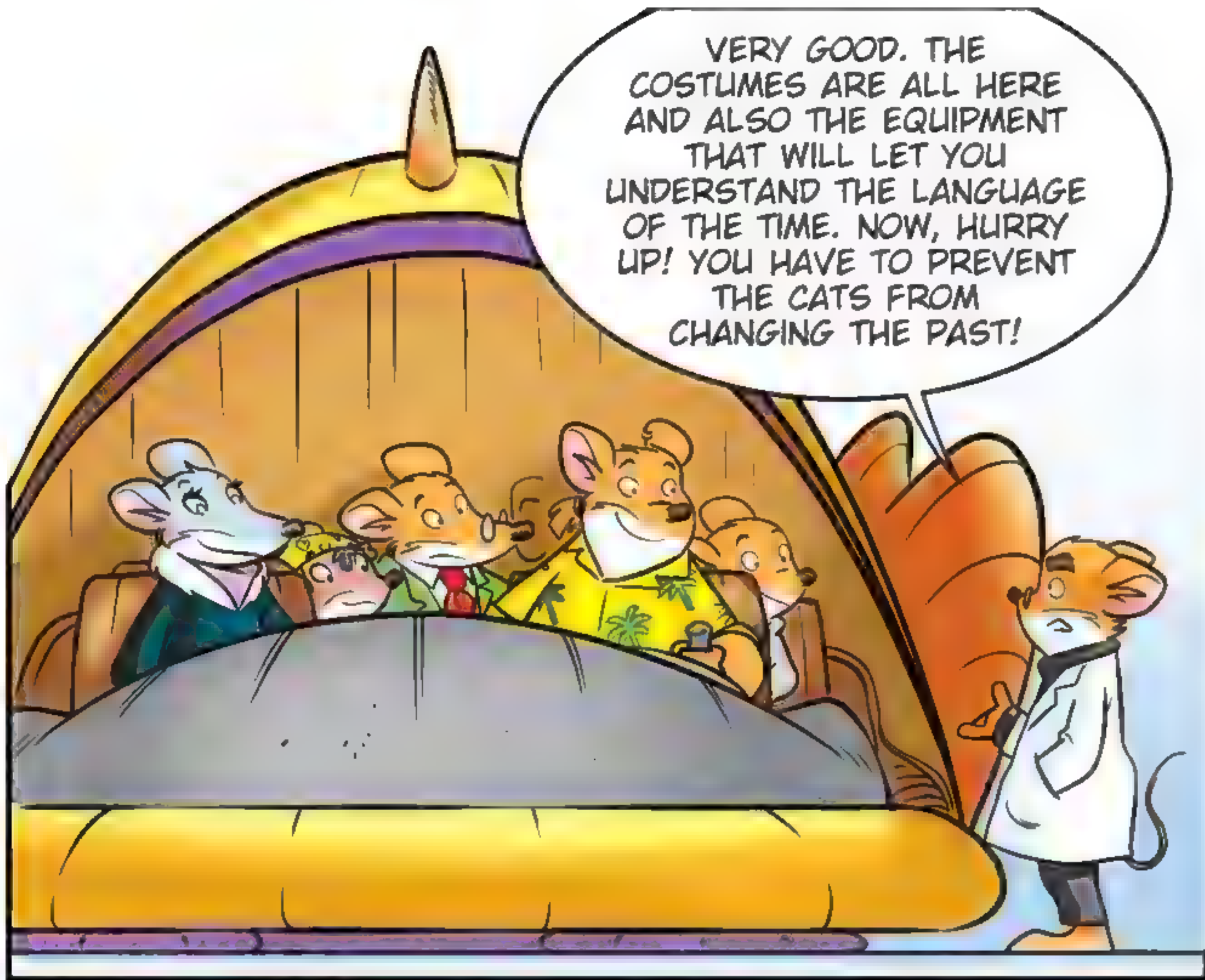










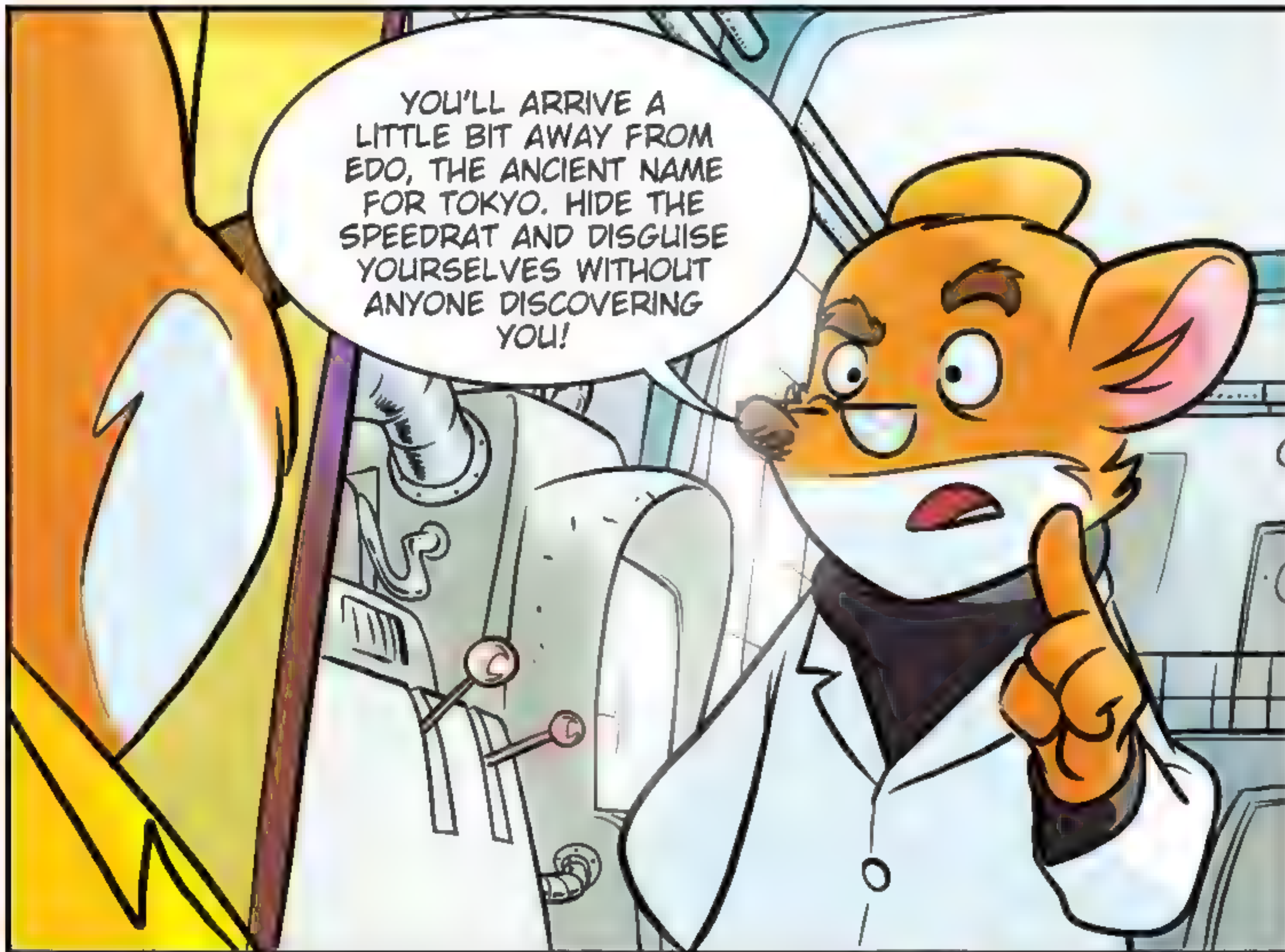


VERY GOOD. THE COSTUMES ARE ALL HERE AND ALSO THE EQUIPMENT THAT WILL LET YOU UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE OF THE TIME. NOW, HURRY UP! YOU HAVE TO PREVENT THE CATS FROM CHANGING THE PAST!

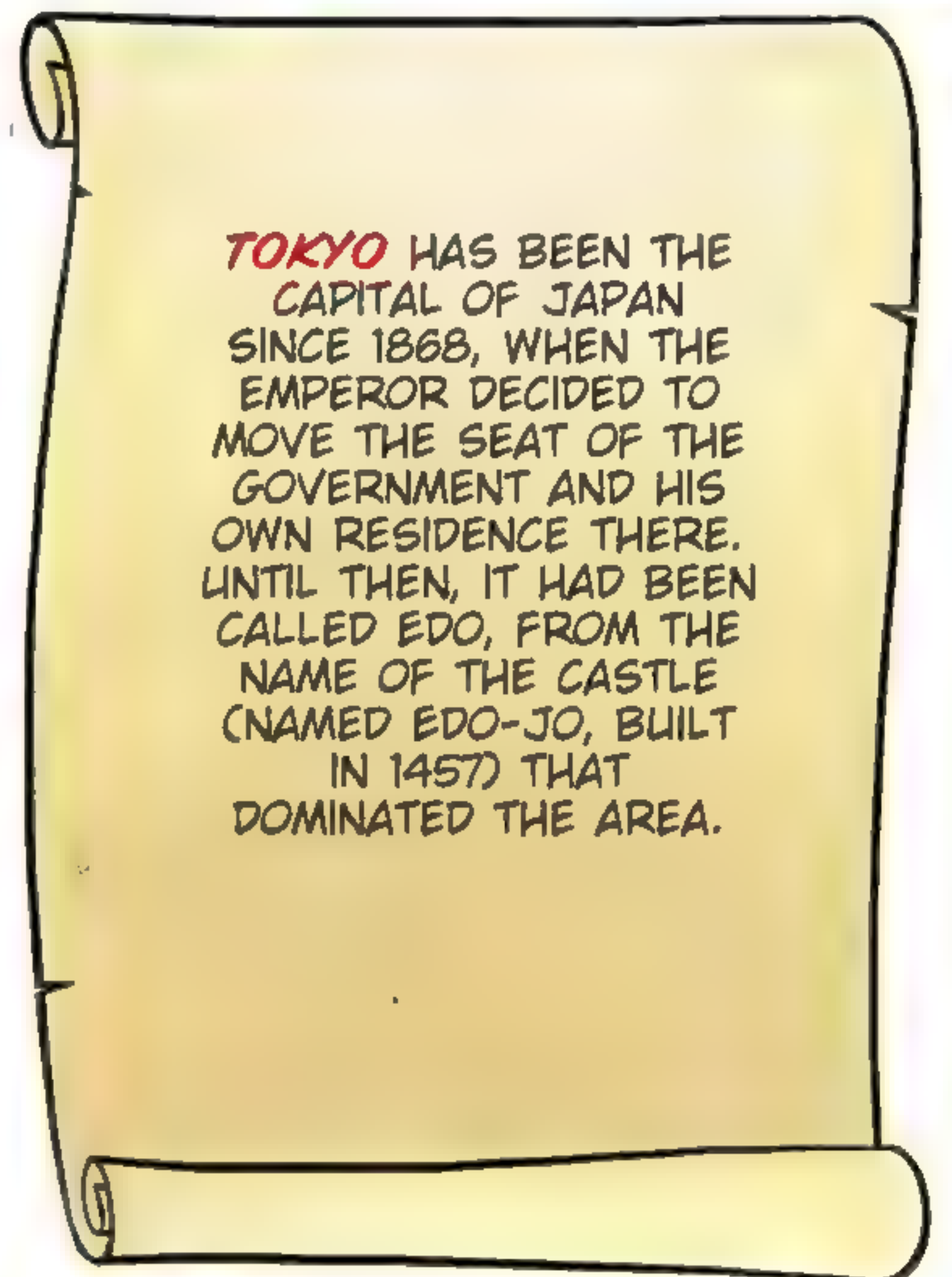


DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR, WE'LL SEE TO IT!

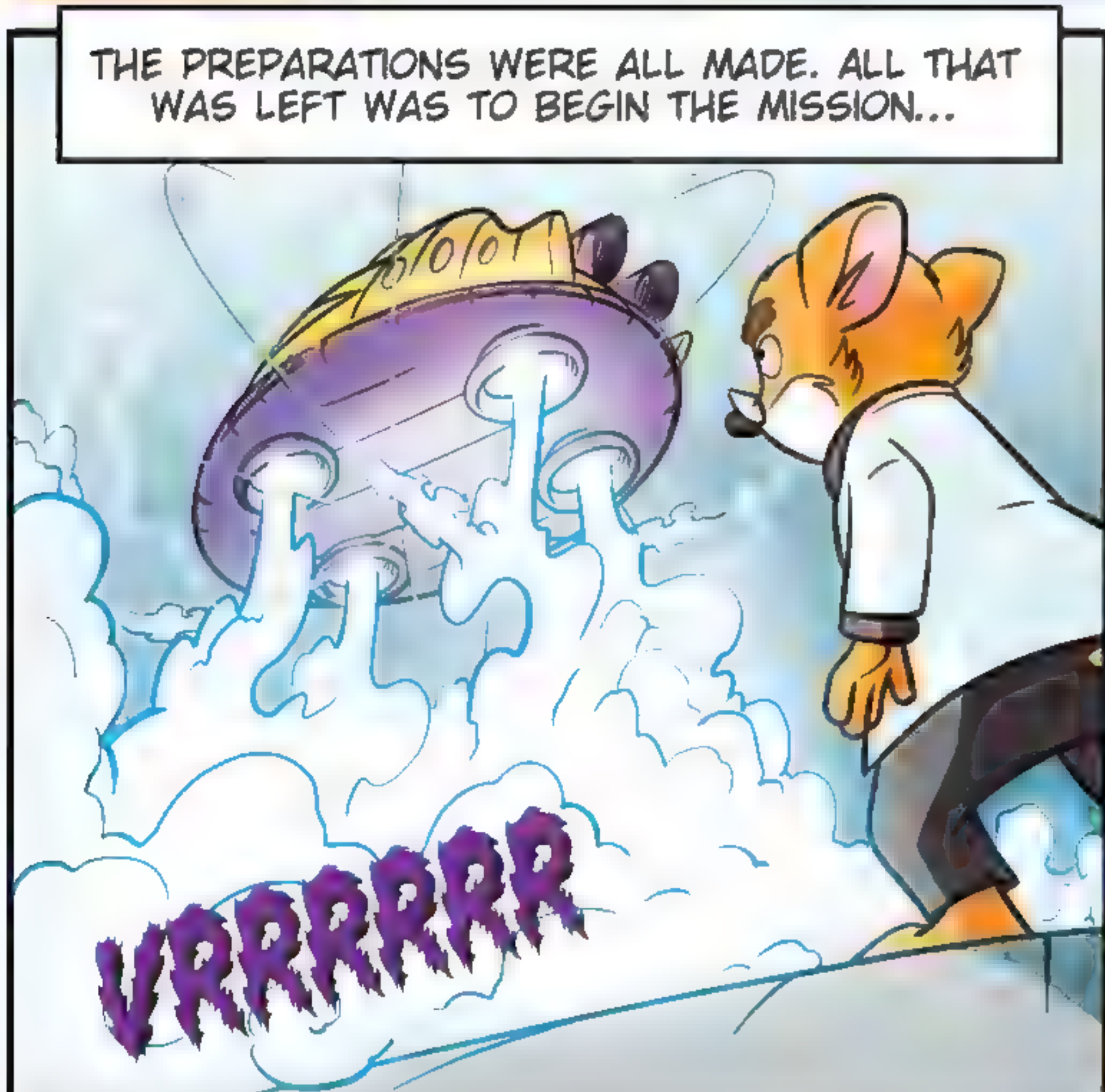
WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE HEADED?



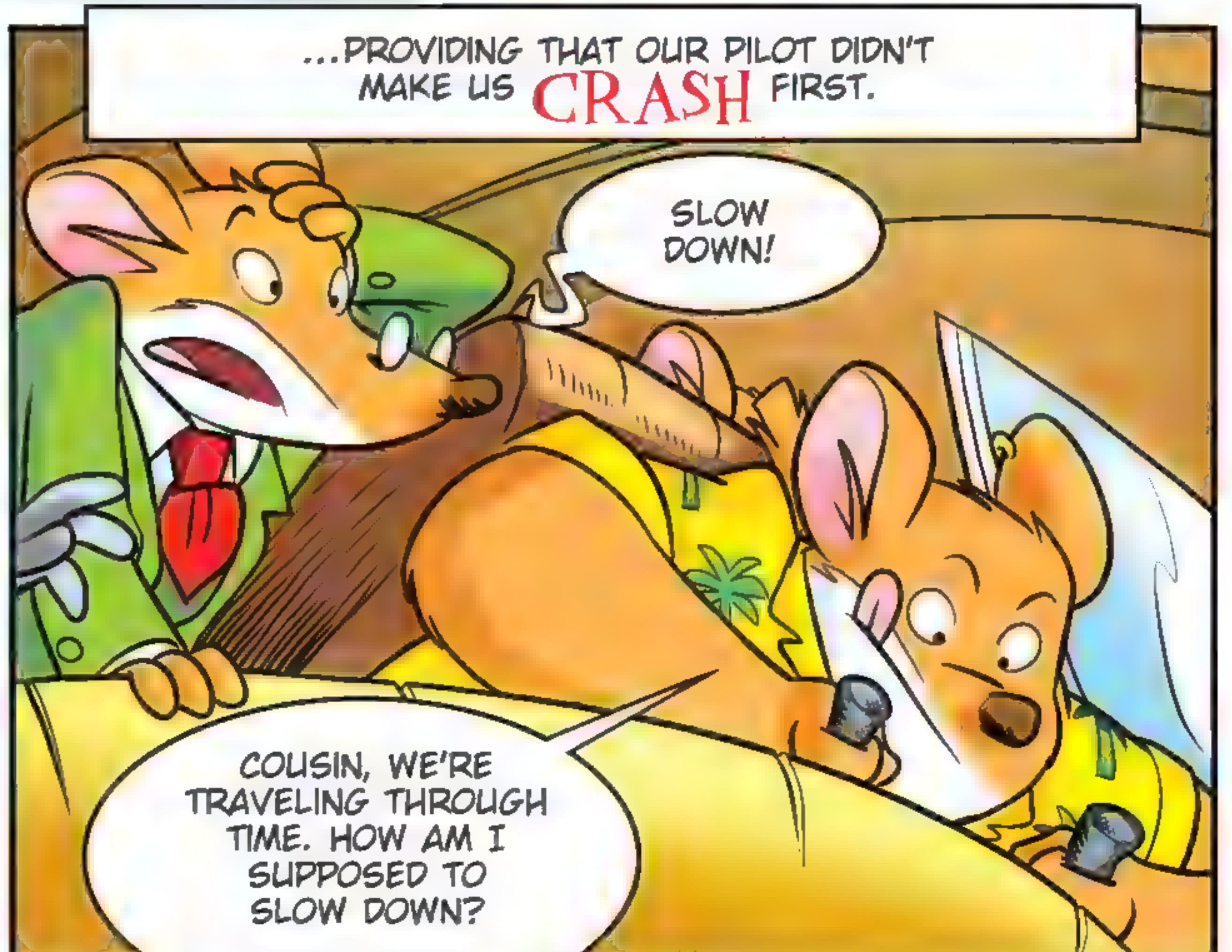
YOU'LL ARRIVE A LITTLE BIT AWAY FROM EDO, THE ANCIENT NAME FOR TOKYO. HIDE THE SPEEDRAT AND DISGUISE YOURSELVES WITHOUT ANYONE DISCOVERING YOU!



**TOKYO** HAS BEEN THE CAPITAL OF JAPAN SINCE 1868, WHEN THE EMPEROR DECIDED TO MOVE THE SEAT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND HIS OWN RESIDENCE THERE. UNTIL THEN, IT HAD BEEN CALLED EDO, FROM THE NAME OF THE CASTLE (NAMED EDO-JO, BUILT IN 1457) THAT DOMINATED THE AREA.



THE PREPARATIONS WERE ALL MADE. ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS TO BEGIN THE MISSION...



...PROVIDING THAT OUR PILOT DIDN'T MAKE US **CRASH** FIRST.

SLOW DOWN!

COUSIN, WE'RE TRAVELING THROUGH TIME. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SLOW DOWN?



IN THE MEANTIME, CATARDONE III, EMPEROR OF THE PIRATE CATS, HIS DAUGHTER TERSILLA, AND THEIR ASSISTANT, BONZO, HAD ARRIVED IN JAPAN, IN 1603. THEY'D MADE MISTAKES, HOWEVER, IN A FEW OF THEIR CALCULATIONS...

**MOUNT FUJI** MT. FUJI IS A VOLCANO AND THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN IN JAPAN (3,776 METERS). ITS SNOWY PEAK IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SYMBOLS OF THE COUNTRY. THE JAPANESE CONSIDER IT HOLY AND MAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO ITS SLOPES AT LEAST ONCE DURING THEIR LIVES.

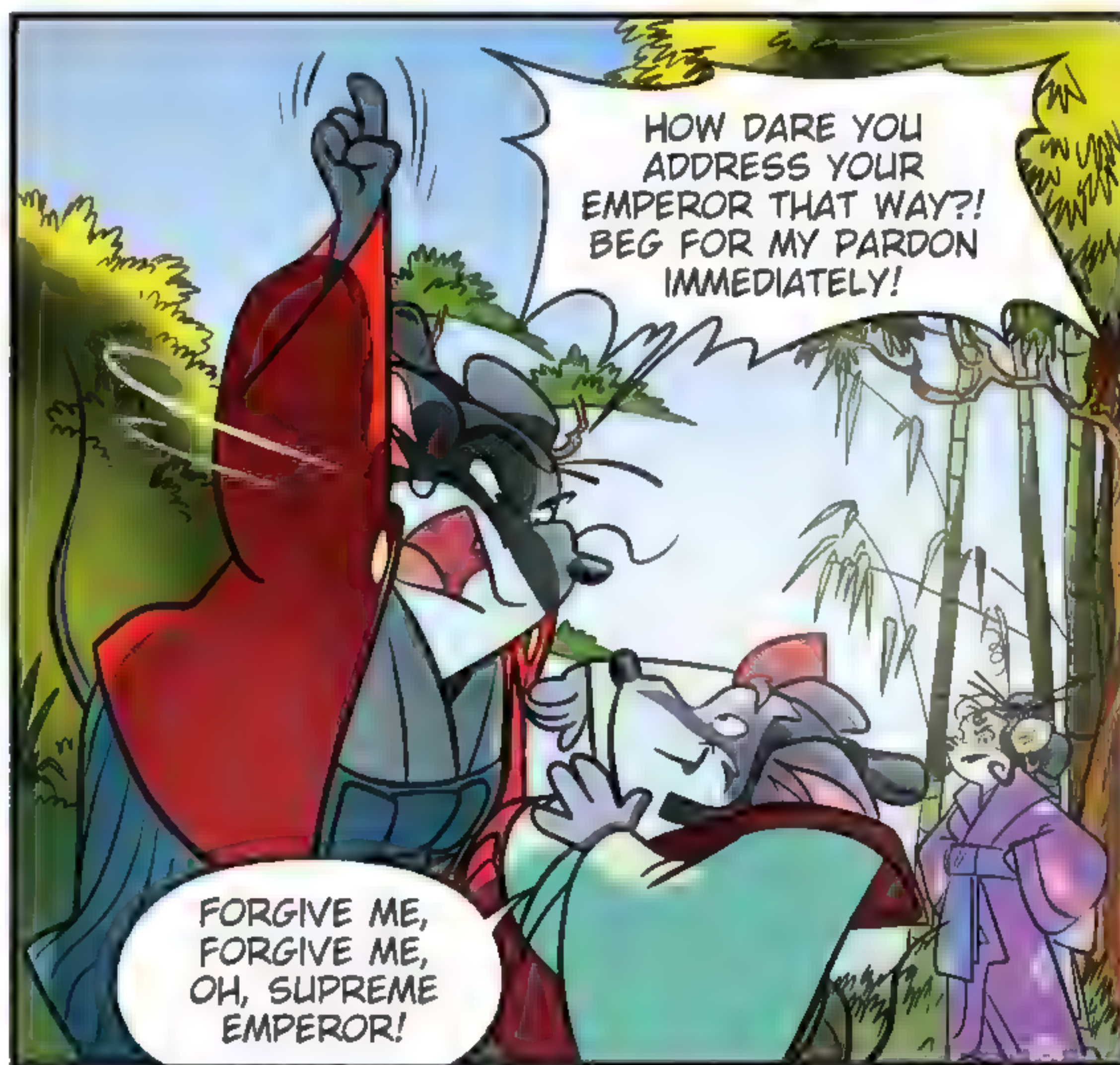
WHAT ARE WE DOING NEAR MT. FUJI?

YOU TOLD ME WE HAD TO GO TO **JAPAN**, AND THIS IS JAPAN, RIGHT?

MT. FUJI'S FAR FROM EDO. HOW DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET THERE?

UHH...





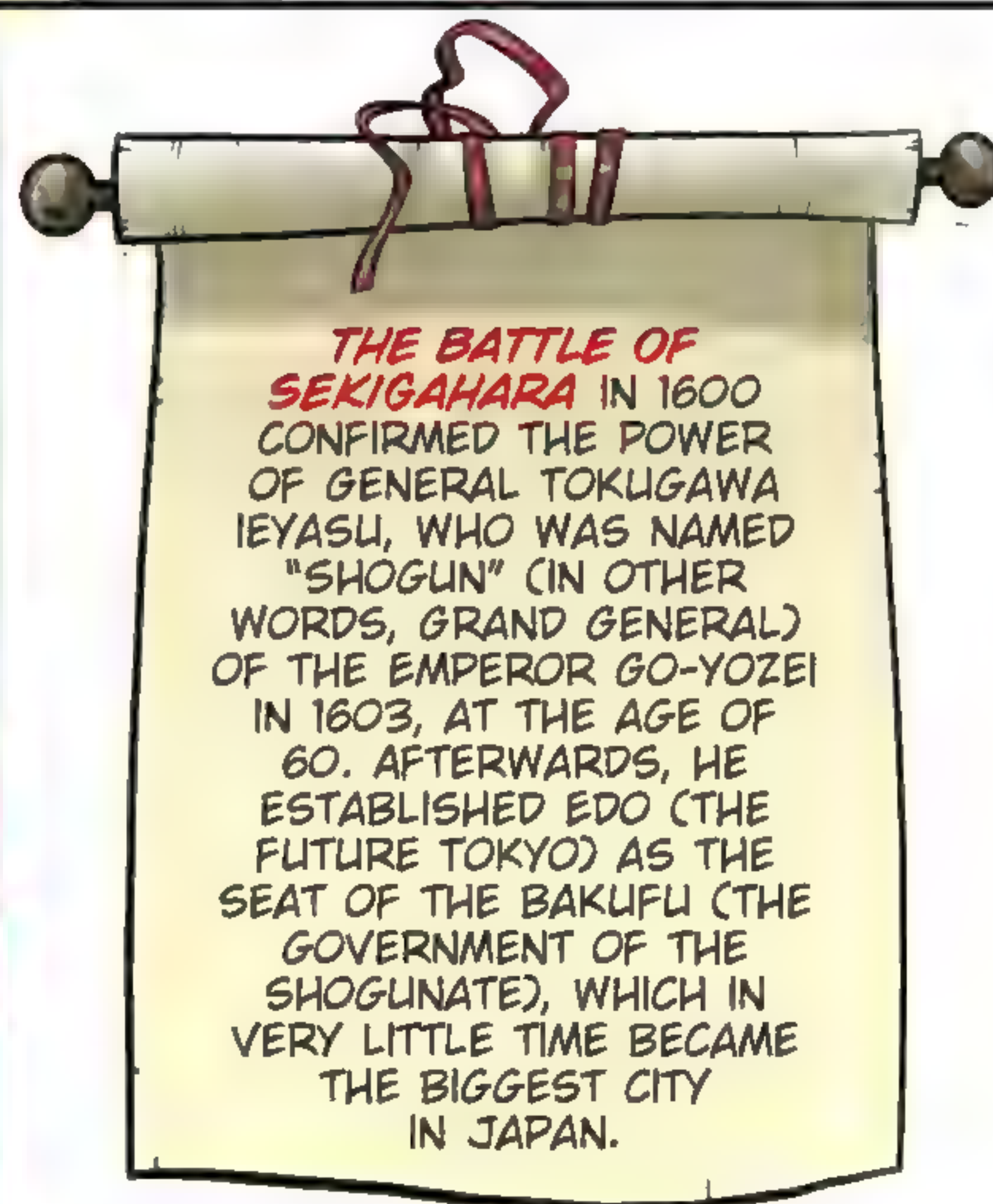
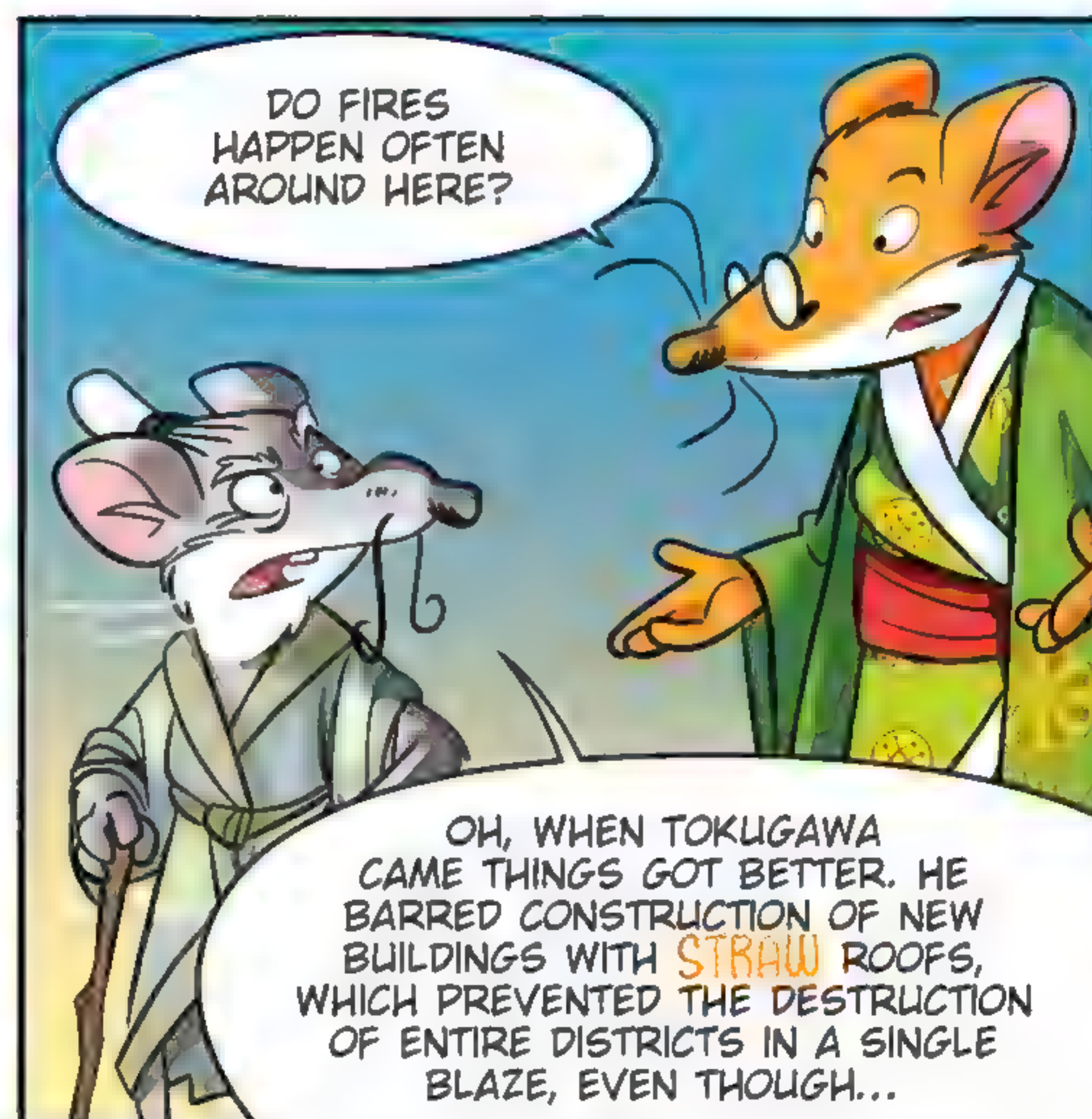


IN THE MEANTIME, WE'D ARRIVED NEAR EDO, HIDDEN THE SPEEDRAT AND PUT ON OUR COSTUMES.



**ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE**  
IN OLD JAPAN, THE  
SIMPLEST BUILDINGS WERE  
BUILT OUT OF INEXPENSIVE  
MATERIALS LIKE WOOD AND  
STRAW, AS THE COUNTRY  
WAS FULL OF FORESTS.  
MORE IMPORTANT  
BUILDINGS WERE BUILT  
OUT OF MORE DURABLE  
MATERIALS, SUCH  
AS STONE.









YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE. WHO ARE YOU?



MY NAME IS GERO-NIMURA STIL-TAO AND THIS IS MY COUSIN TRAPOSHIRO. WE'RE ACTORS AND WE'VE COME TO EDO TO LOOK FOR WORK.

ACTORS THAT'S FANTASTIC! WELCOME, FRIENDS! I'LL GET THE FIRE READY FOR DINNER.



DINNER PROCEEDED CALMLY. WE HAD A MISSION TO CARRY OUT, BUT WE CERTAINLY COULDN'T REFUSE SUCH A WARM WELCOME!



UNTIL...

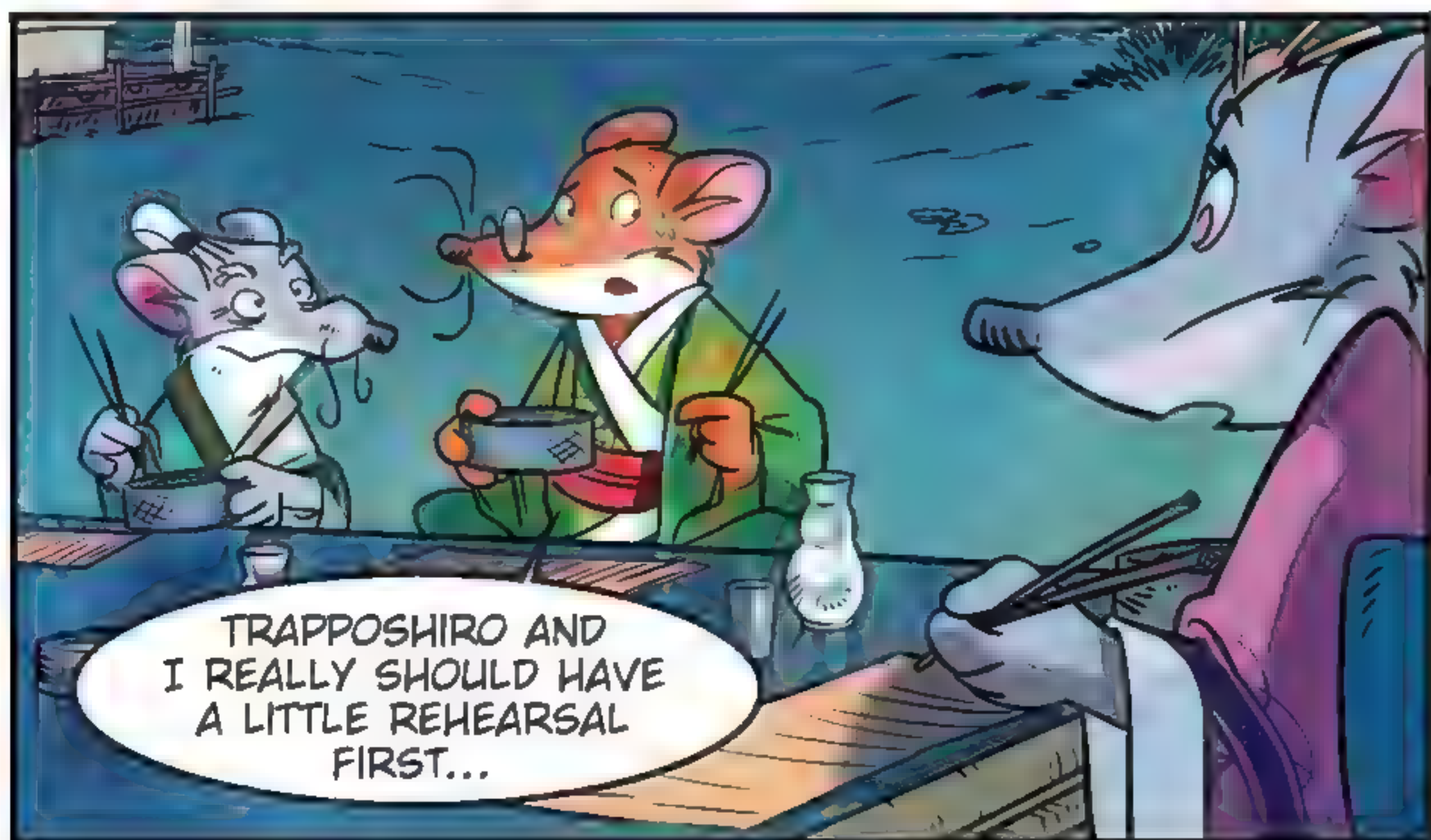
SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WHY DON'T YOU PERFORM NOW? SOMETHING SIMPLE, JUST TO LET US SEE HOW GOOD YOU ARE!



WHA...  
->COUGH->...  
->COUGH->...



YES, DEFINITELY! WE KNOW THE TASTES OF THE COURT VERY WELL! WE CAN TELL YOU IF YOU'LL BE SUCCESSFUL!



TRAPOSHIRO AND I REALLY SHOULD HAVE A LITTLE REHEARSAL FIRST...



I'LL GO RIGHT NOW AND GET AN OLD SAMURAI SUIT OF ARMOR, SO YOU CAN USE IT FOR THE PERFORMANCE!



LATER...

UNCLE, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?

I'M A SCAREDY MOUSE, BUT WHAT ALTERNATIVE DO WE HAVE?



NO!  
NO!  
NO!  
NO!

MAYBE THEY DON'T WANT GERONIMO TO SING?

NO, DEAR, THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT NOH THEATER.

**NOH THEATER**  
NOH DRAMA WAS A TYPE OF THEATER POPULAR IN 14TH CENTURY JAPAN, WHICH RETOLD STORIES OF HEROIC EVENTS FROM JAPANESE TRADITION THROUGH SONG, ACTING, AND DANCE. THE ACTORS WERE ALL MEN, EVEN IN WOMEN'S ROLES, AND THEY WORE DISTINCTIVE MASKS.

ALLOW ME TO PERFORM A DANCE BEFORE MY BROTHERS BEGIN THEIR PLAY...

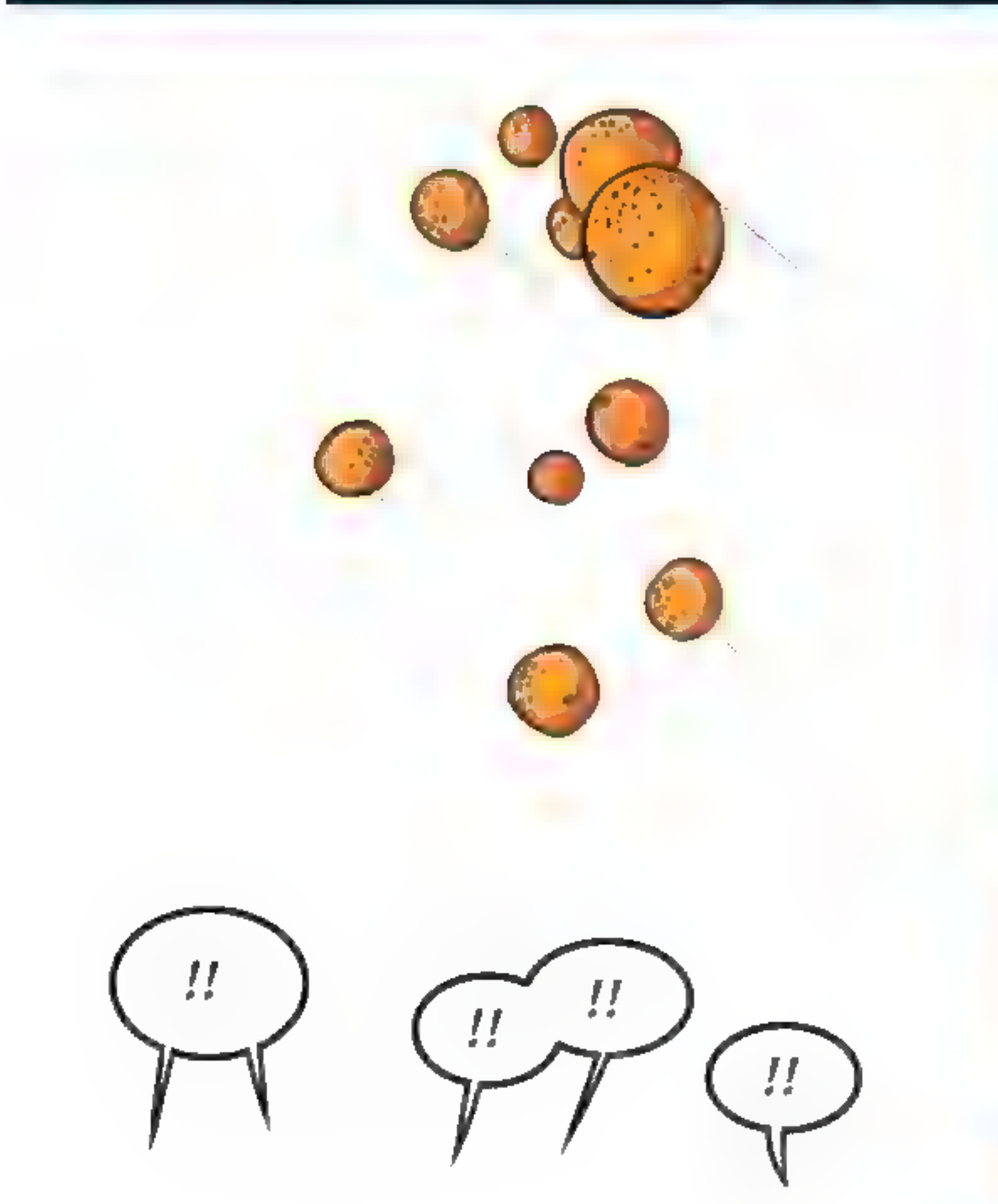
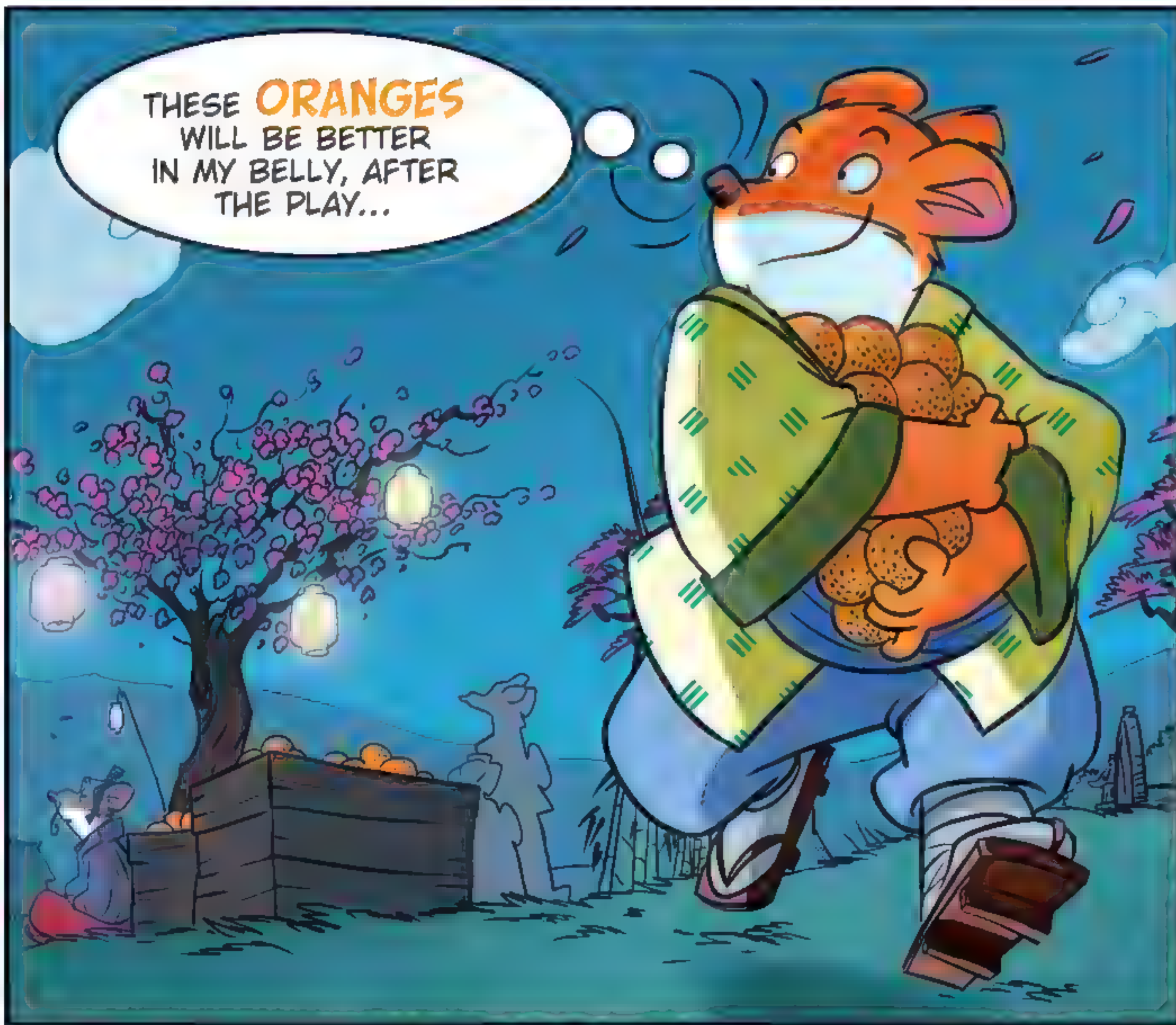
?

?!?

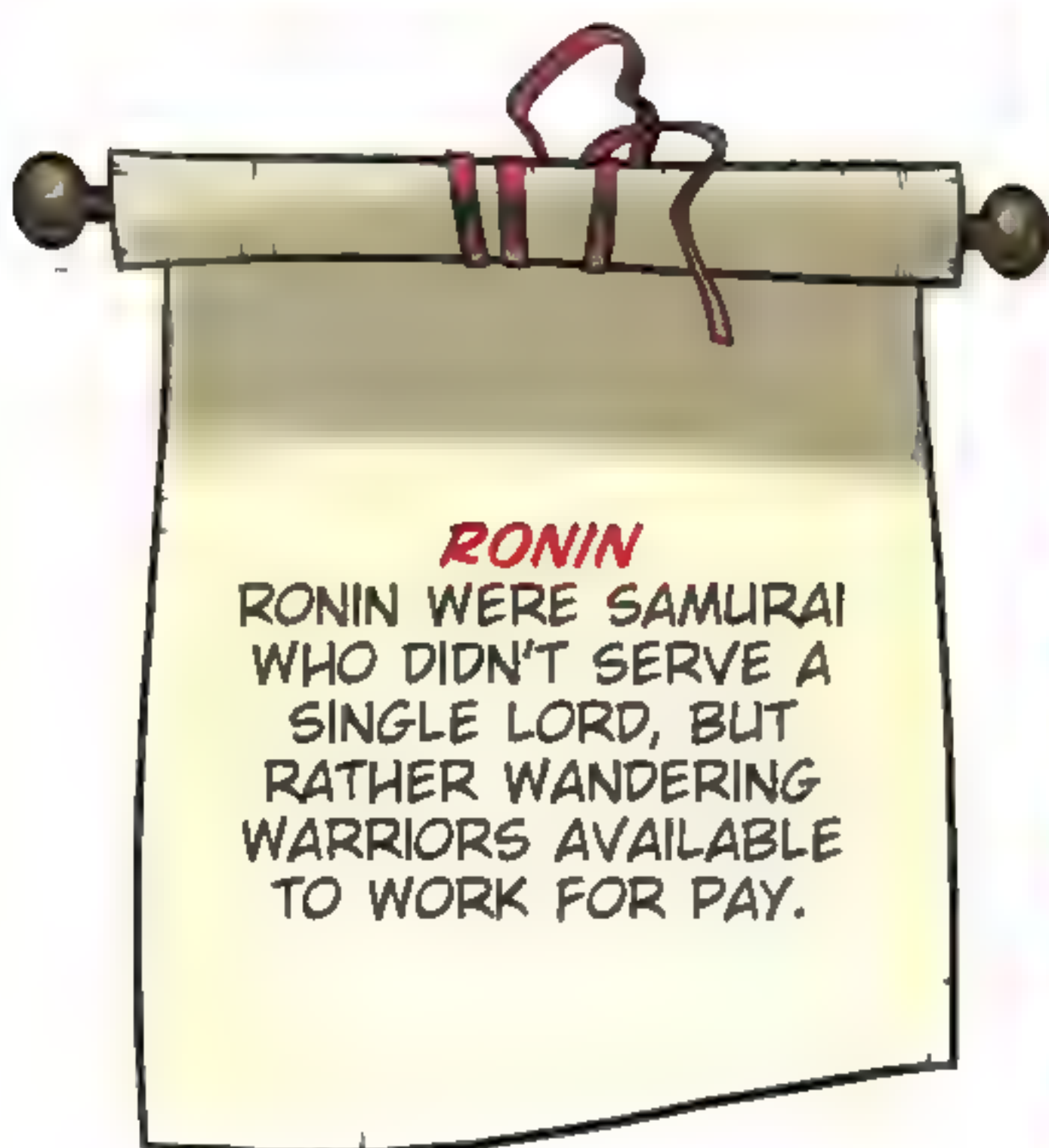
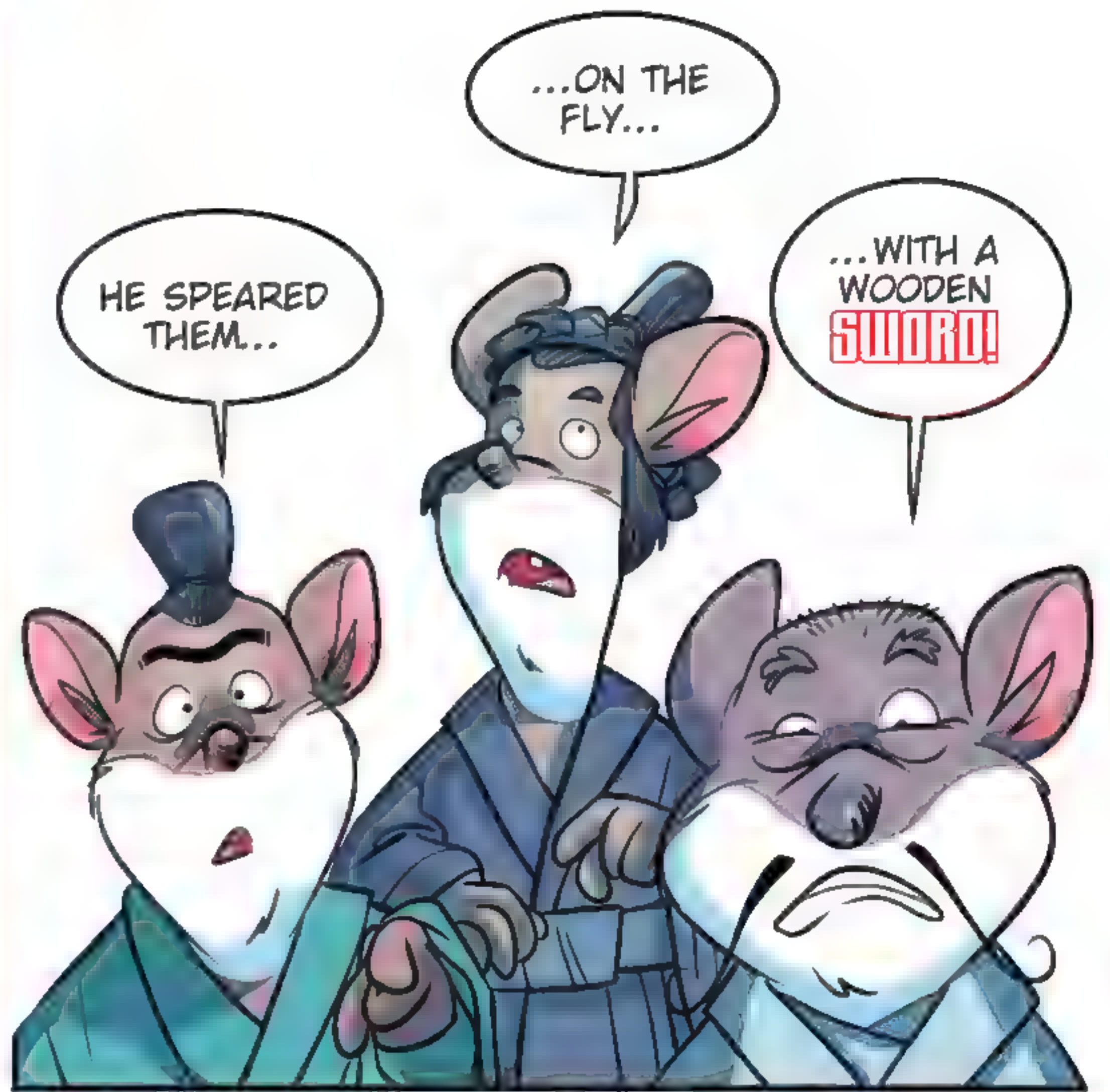
A WOMAN WHO ACTS? WHAT KIND OF **STRANGENESS** IS THIS?



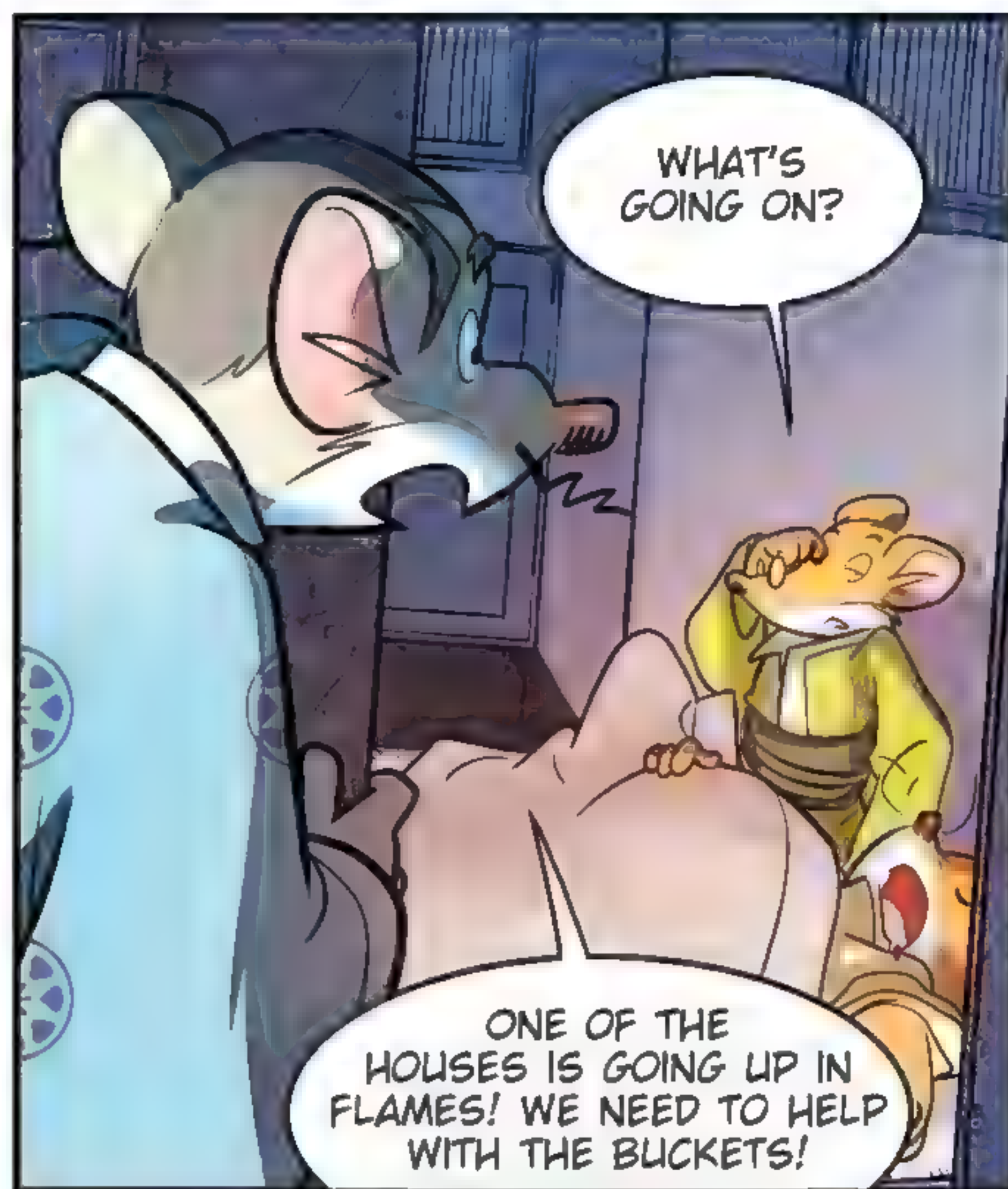












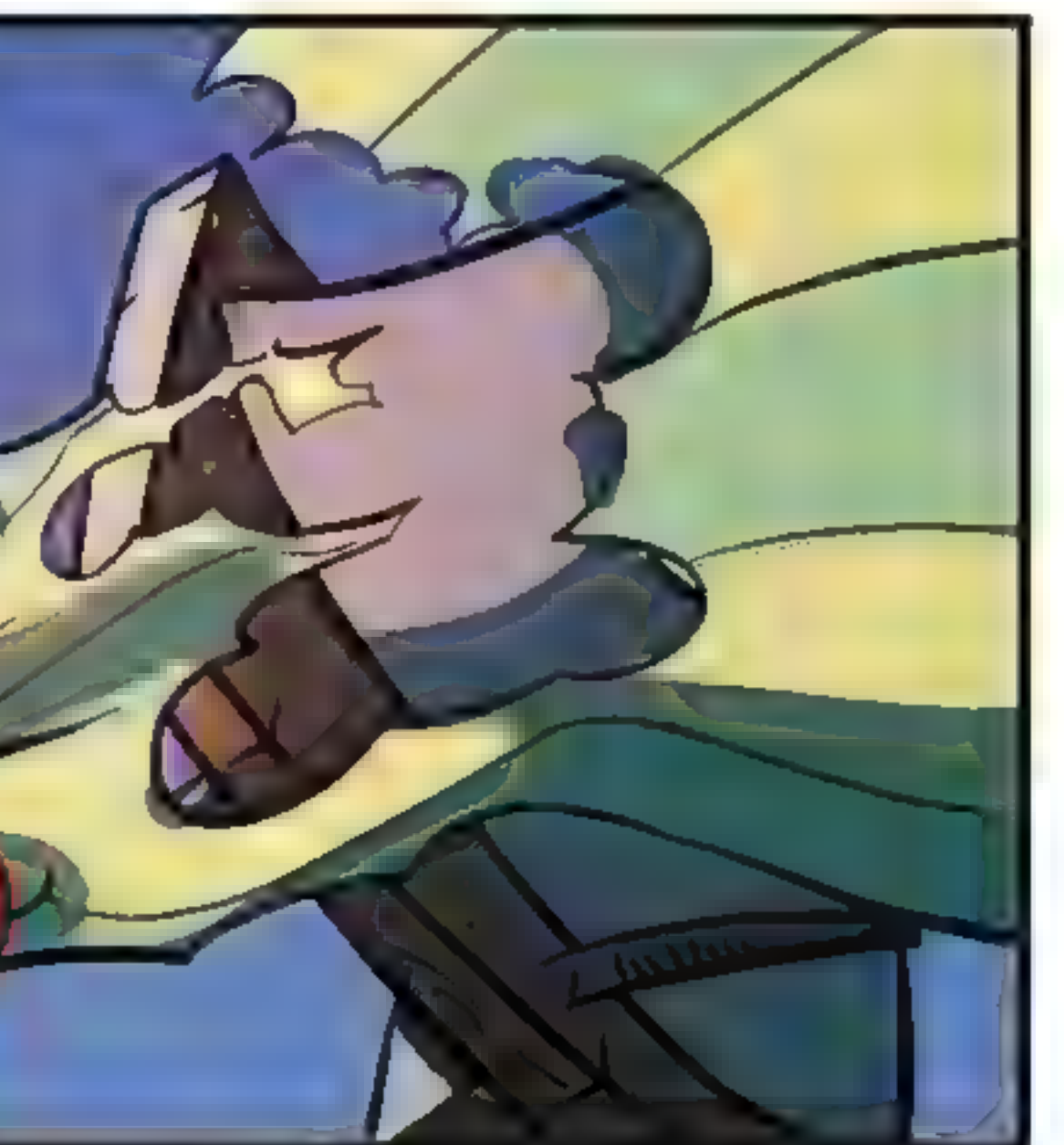
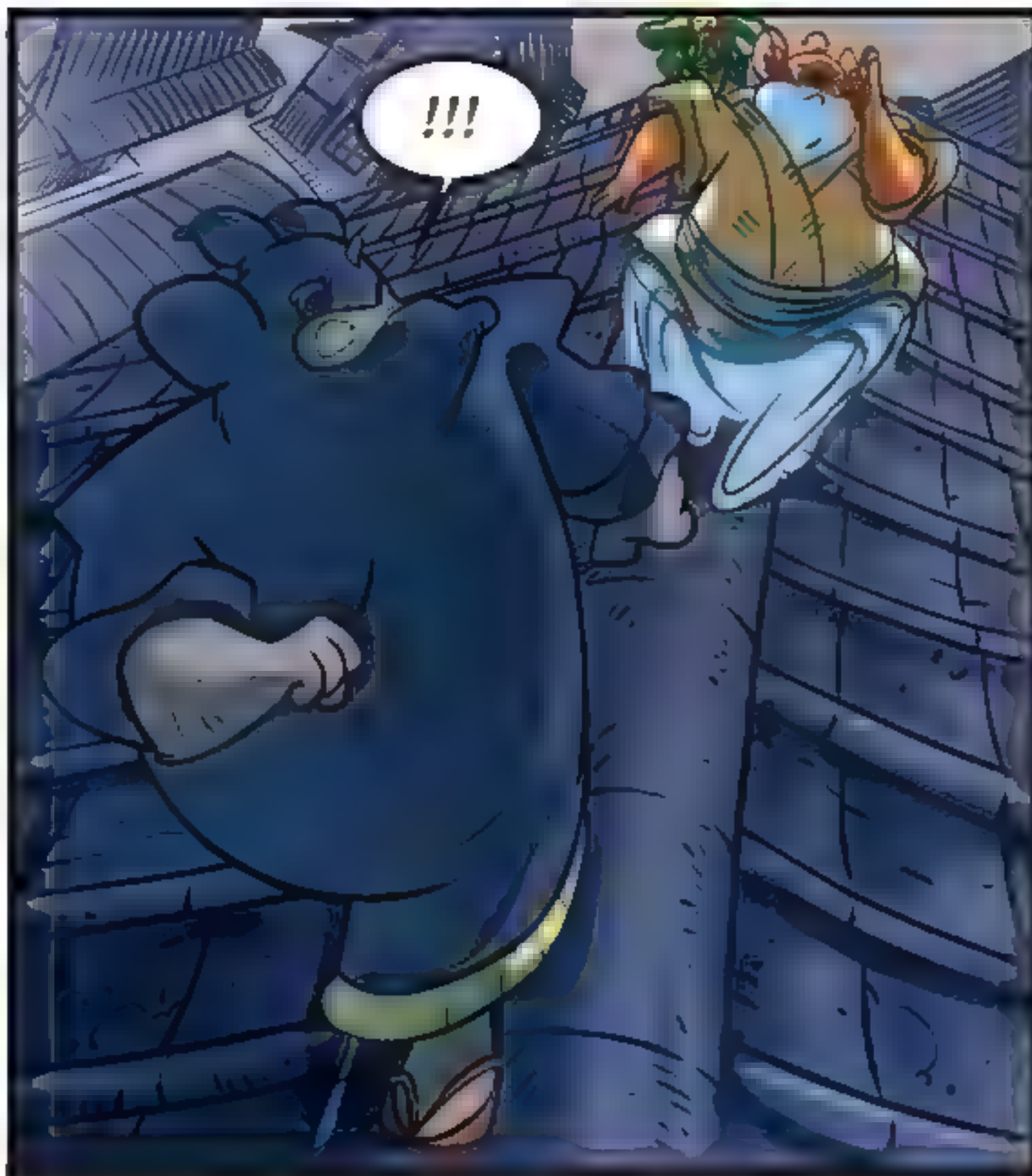














IN THE MEANTIME, MY FAME AS AN ACTOR  
HAD SPREAD TO THE FOUR WINDS AND  
I HAD BEEN INVITED TO COURT.

WHAT'RE ALL  
THESE COMINGS  
AND GOINGS?

THE EDO-JO  
CASTLE ISN'T YET  
FINISHED. THE WING FOR  
SHOGUN TOKUGAWA  
IEYASU IS READY, BUT  
THERE'S STILL  
MUCH TO DO.

SO WHY  
DOES THE  
EMPEROR WANT  
TO SEE US?

NO, NO, TOKUGAWA IYASU ISN'T  
THE EMPEROR. HE'S THE SHOGUN!  
THAT'S A VERY POWERFUL FAMILY  
WHO GOVERNS THIS REGION.

### SHOGUN

THE TITLE THAT IN  
ANCIENT JAPAN WAS  
GIVEN TO THE HEAD OF  
MILITARY EXPEDITIONS.  
STARTING IN 1192, THE  
TITLE BECAME HEREDITARY  
AND SHOGUN BECAME THE  
DE FACTO RULERS OF THE  
COUNTRY, WHILE THE  
ROLE OF EMPEROR  
MAINLY RETAINED A  
HISTORICAL FUNCTION.

THE PAST FEW DAYS,  
THE SHOGUN HAS BEEN  
DECIDING HOW TO DIVIDE THE  
FIEFDOMS AMONG HIS MOST  
**FAITHFUL**  
SUBJECTS.

WE'VE FINALLY DISCOVERED WHY THE  
PIRATE CATS HAVE COME TO THIS PERIOD:  
TO GET A FIEFDOM TO PASS DOWN  
TO THEIR OWN DESCENDANTS!

BUT WHY ARE  
THEY LIGHTING THE FIRES?  
WHAT DO THEY GAIN FROM  
DESTROYING THE CITY?

RELAX! I'M HERE TO  
PROTECT YOU, TRAP THE  
**CAT-NABBER!**

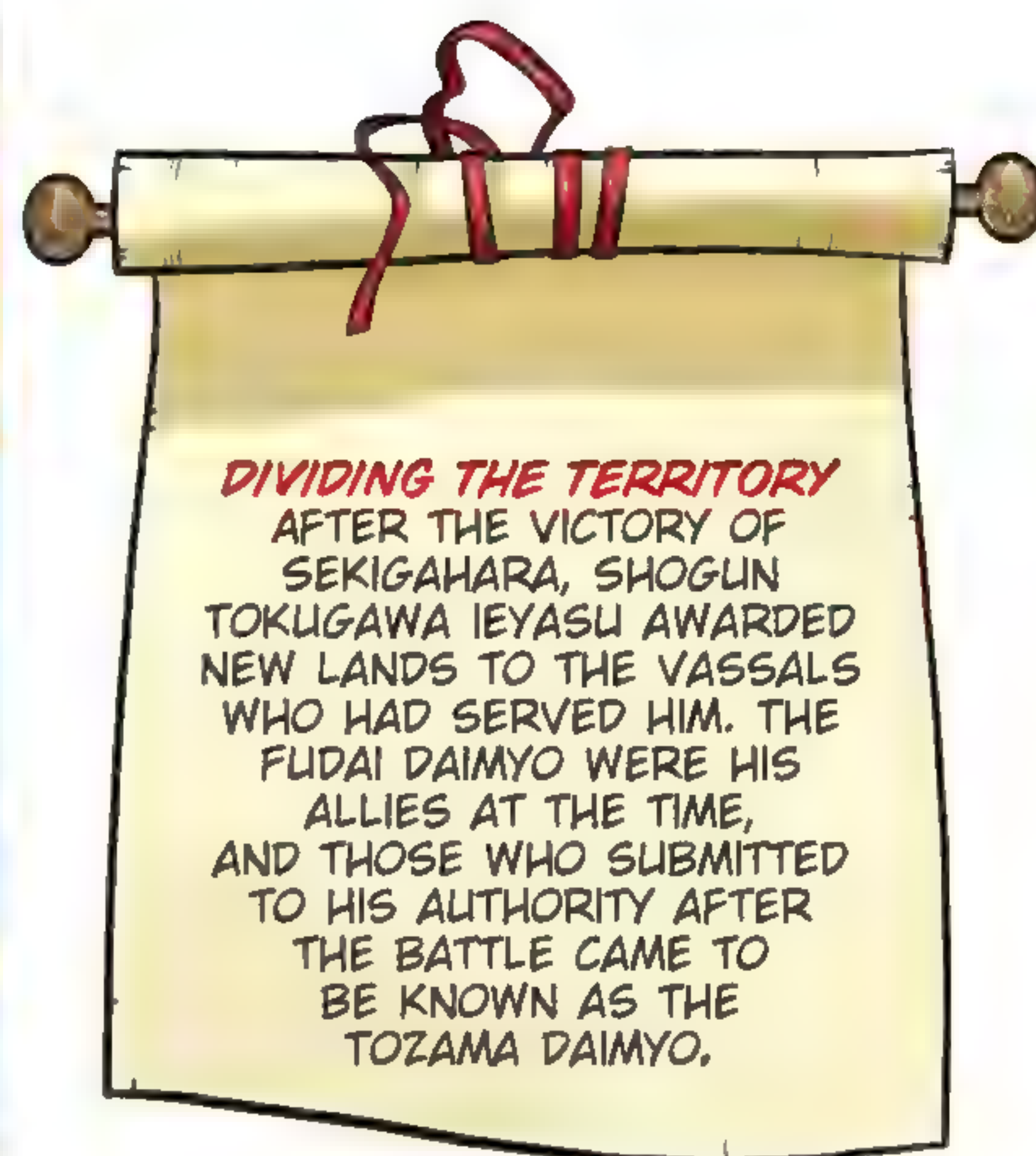




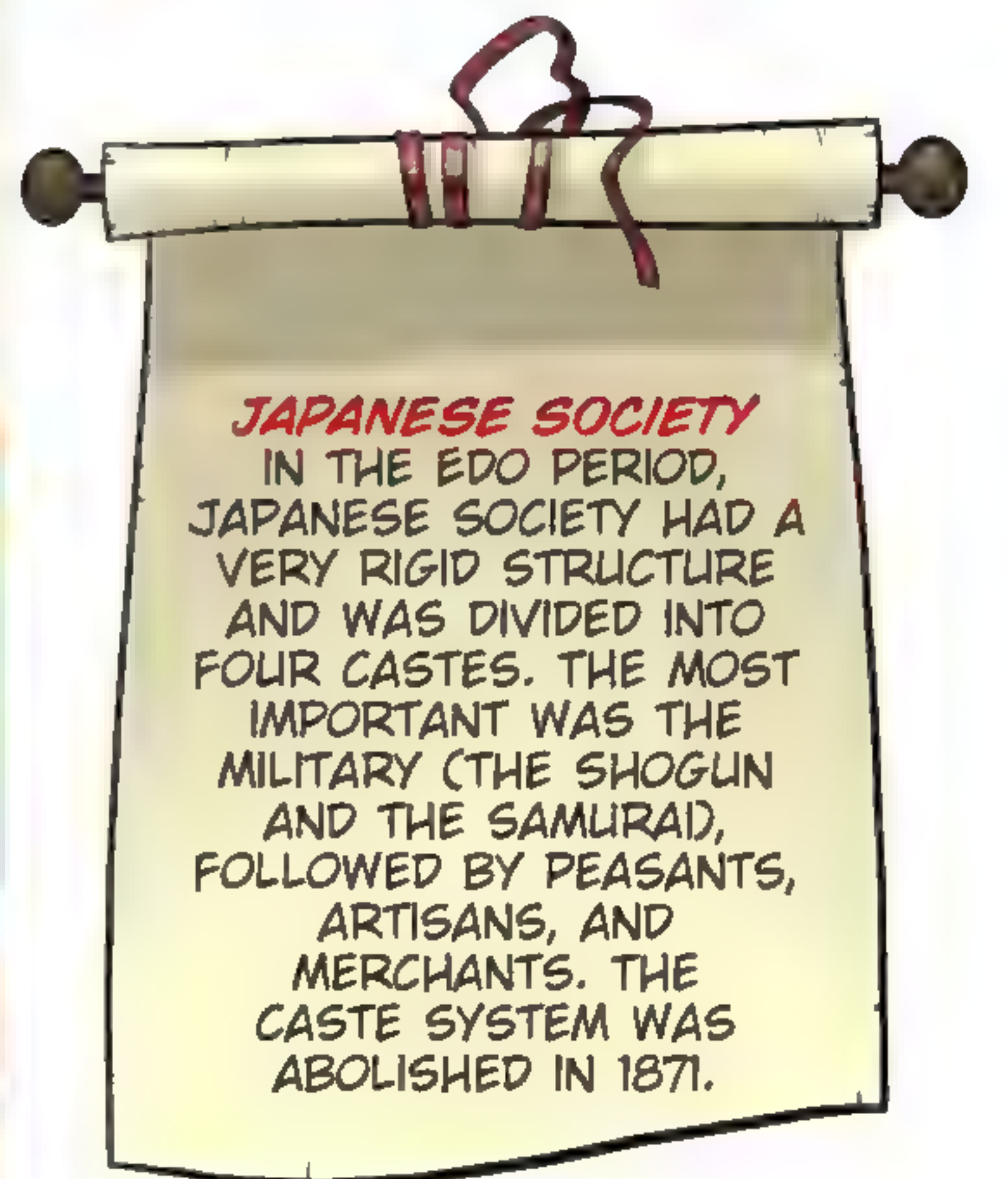
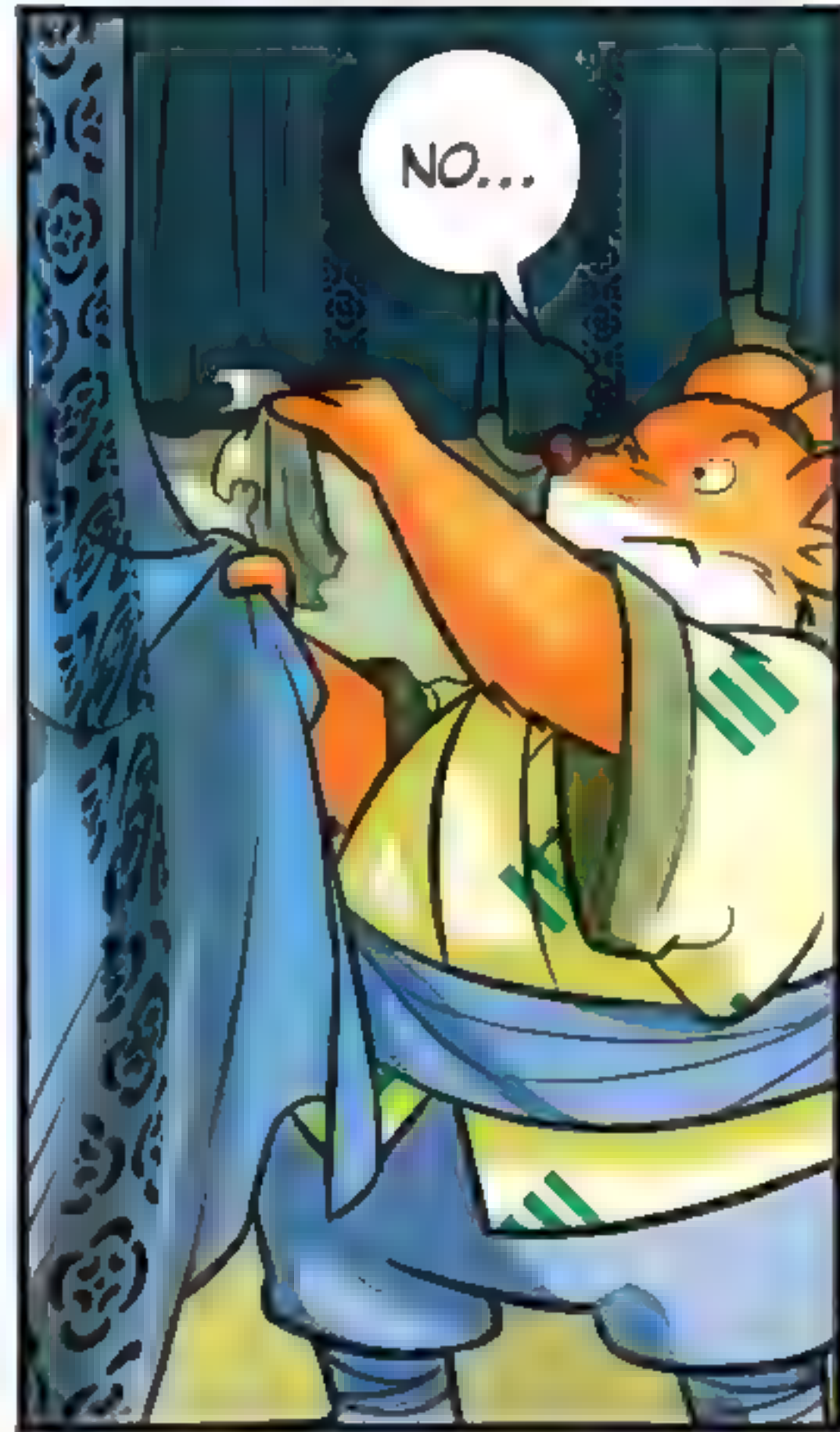








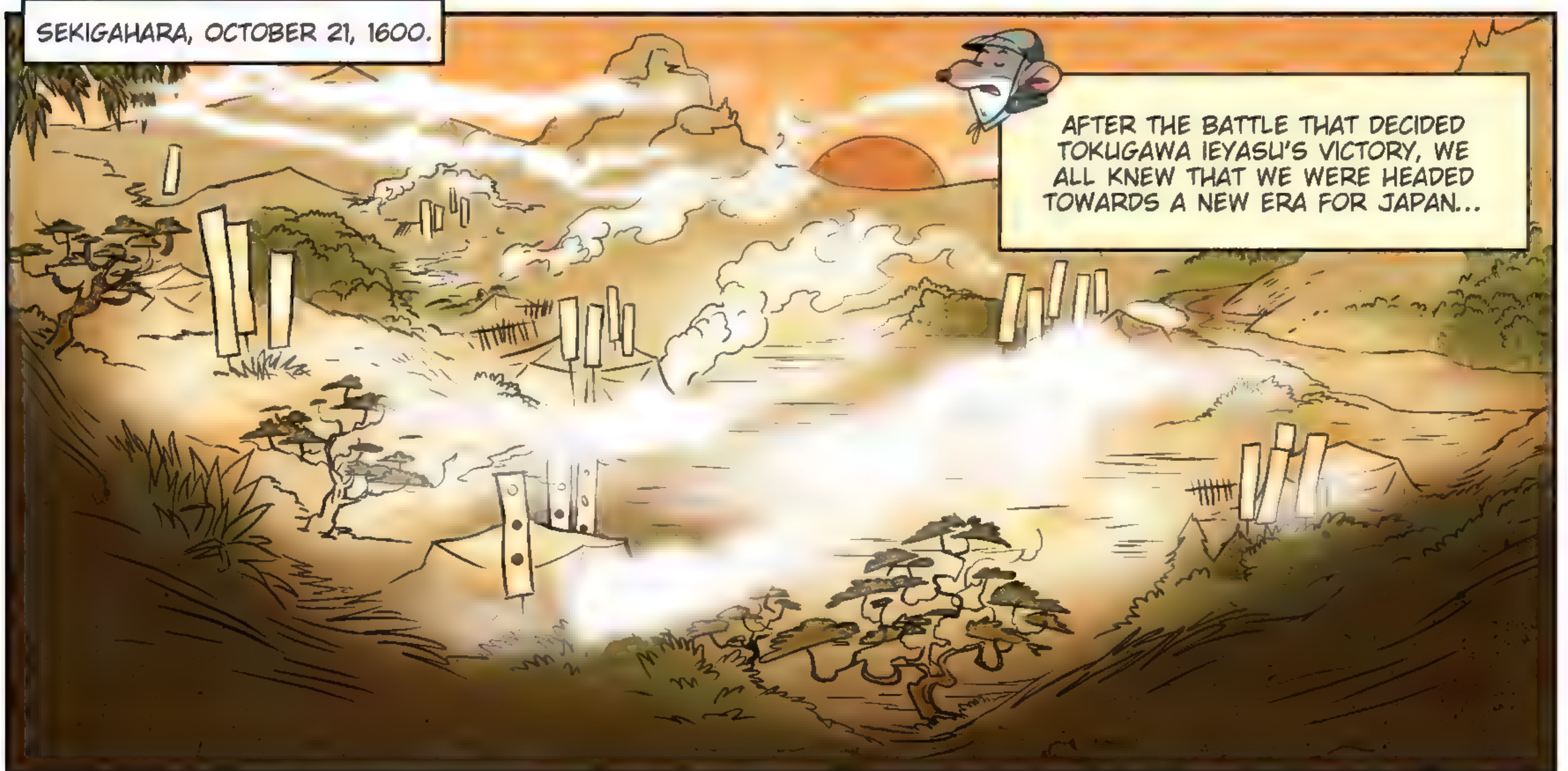
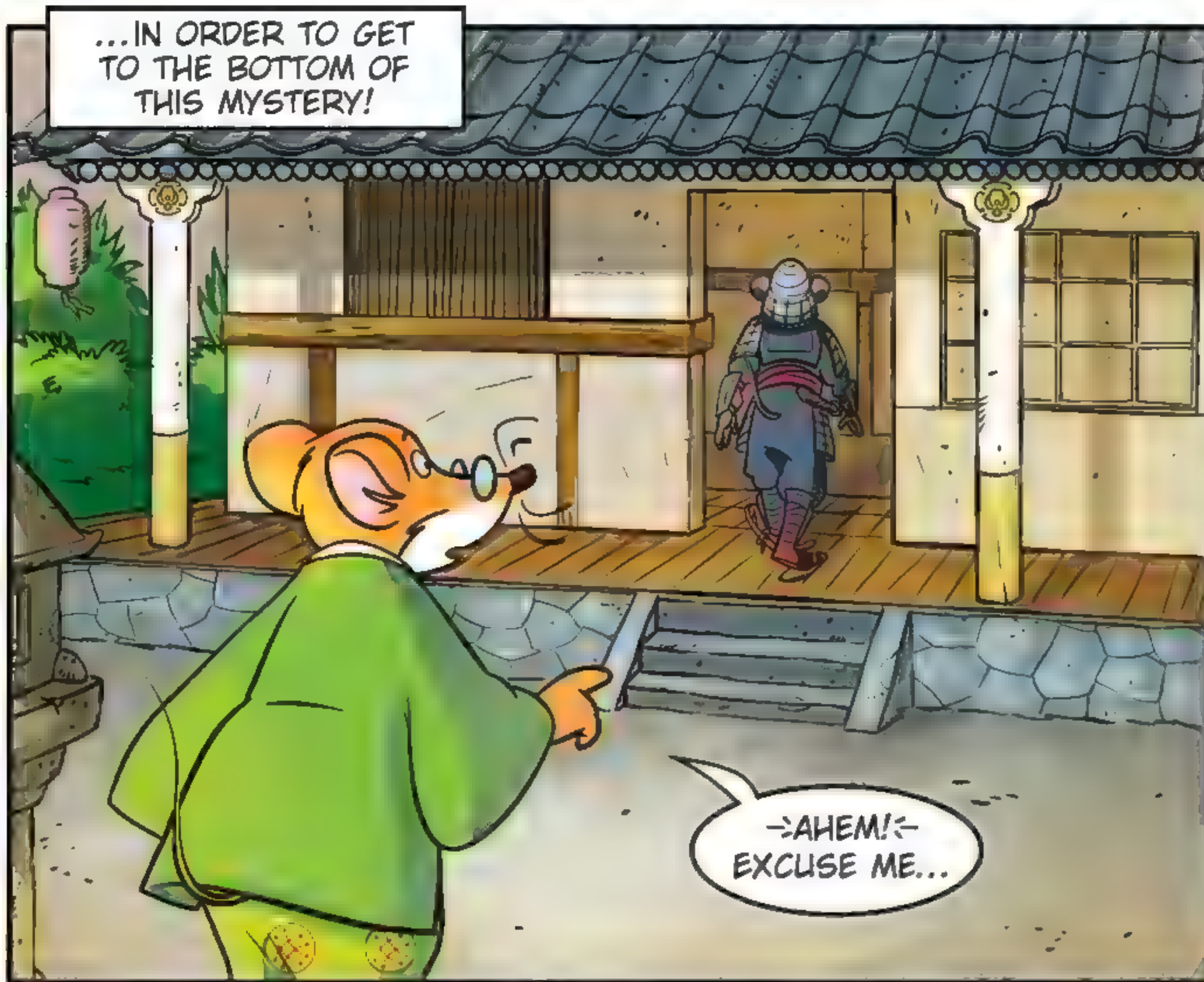




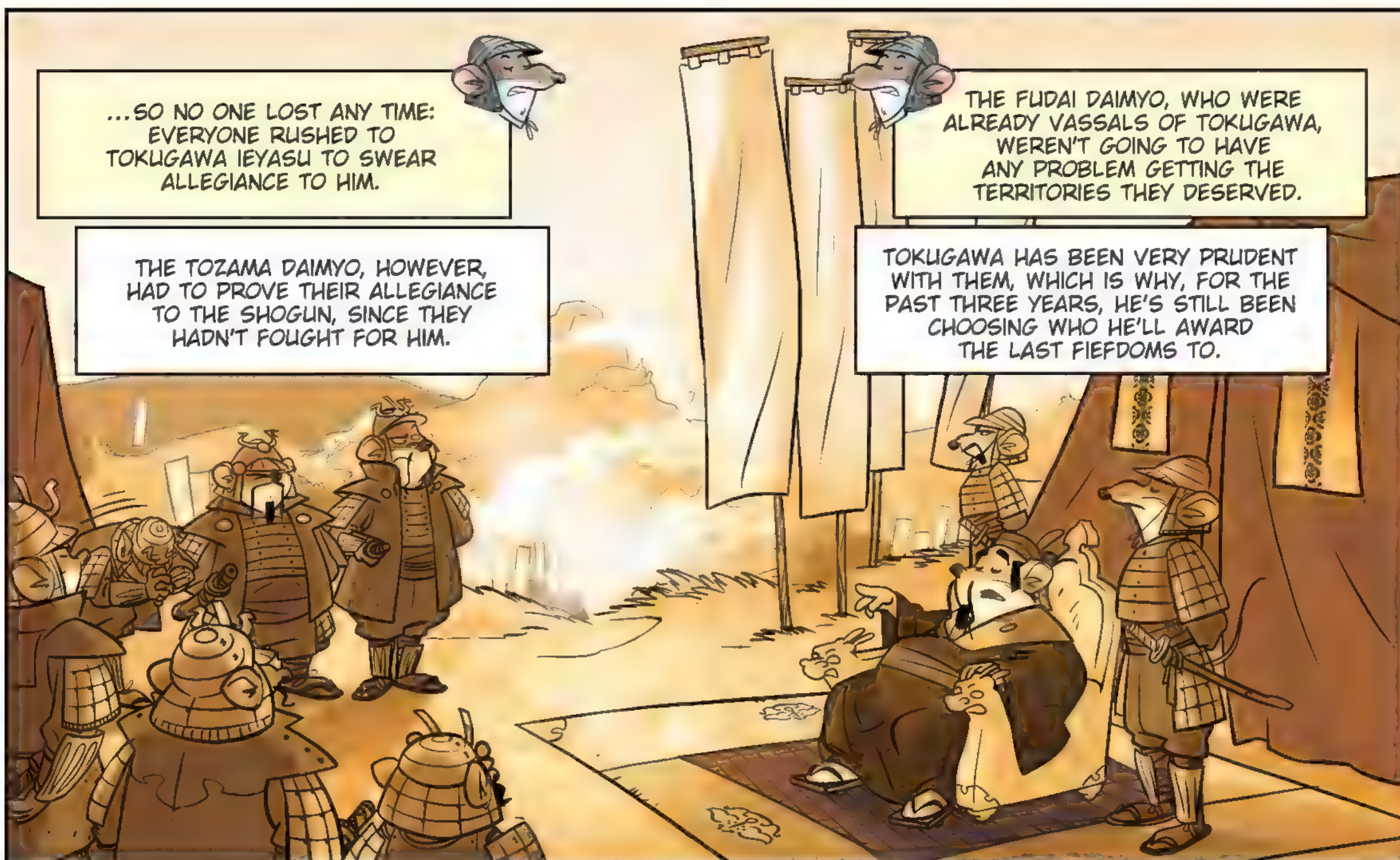












...SO NO ONE LOST ANY TIME:  
EVERYONE RUSHED TO  
TOKUGAWA IEYASU TO SWEAR  
ALLEGIANCE TO HIM.

THE FUDAI DAIMYO, WHO WERE  
ALREADY VASSALS OF TOKUGAWA,  
WEREN'T GOING TO HAVE  
ANY PROBLEM GETTING THE  
TERRITORIES THEY DESERVED.

THE TOZAMA DAIMYO, HOWEVER,  
HAD TO PROVE THEIR ALLEGIANCE  
TO THE SHOGUN, SINCE THEY  
HADN'T FOUGHT FOR HIM.

TOKUGAWA HAS BEEN VERY PRUDENT  
WITH THEM, WHICH IS WHY, FOR THE  
PAST THREE YEARS, HE'S STILL BEEN  
CHOOSING WHO HE'LL AWARD  
THE LAST FIEFDOMS TO.



AND AMONG THESE  
LORDS, IS THERE ONE  
WHO ARRIVED AT THE  
LAST MINUTE? OR  
WHO'S ACTING  
**STRANGELY?**



FOR SURE. I CAN'T SAY  
THAT THE MEOWZAKI FAMILY  
HAS BEEN SCHOOLED WELL  
IN PROPER BEHAVIOR... BUT,  
ON THE OTHER HAND,  
THEY'RE ASKING FOR A  
FIEFDOM THAT NO ONE  
ELSE WANTS!

HOW COME?



WELL, IT'S ONE OF  
THE PROVINCES NEAREST  
EDO CASTLE AND TOO MUCH  
UNDER THE INFLUENCE  
OF THE SHOGUN.



I'M GOING  
NOW. SEE YOU  
AFTER THE  
PERFORMANCE!

UHM...  
YES.

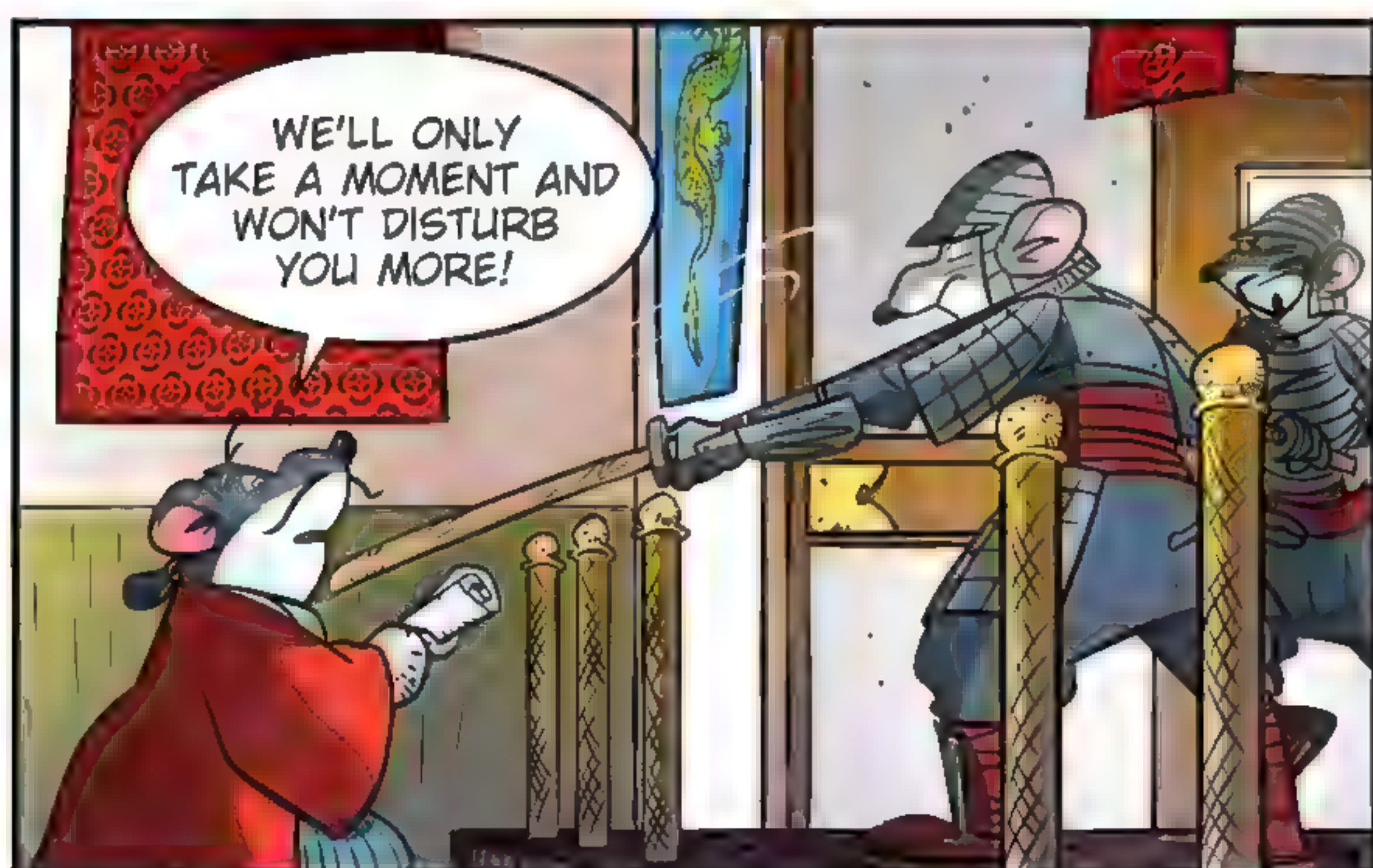
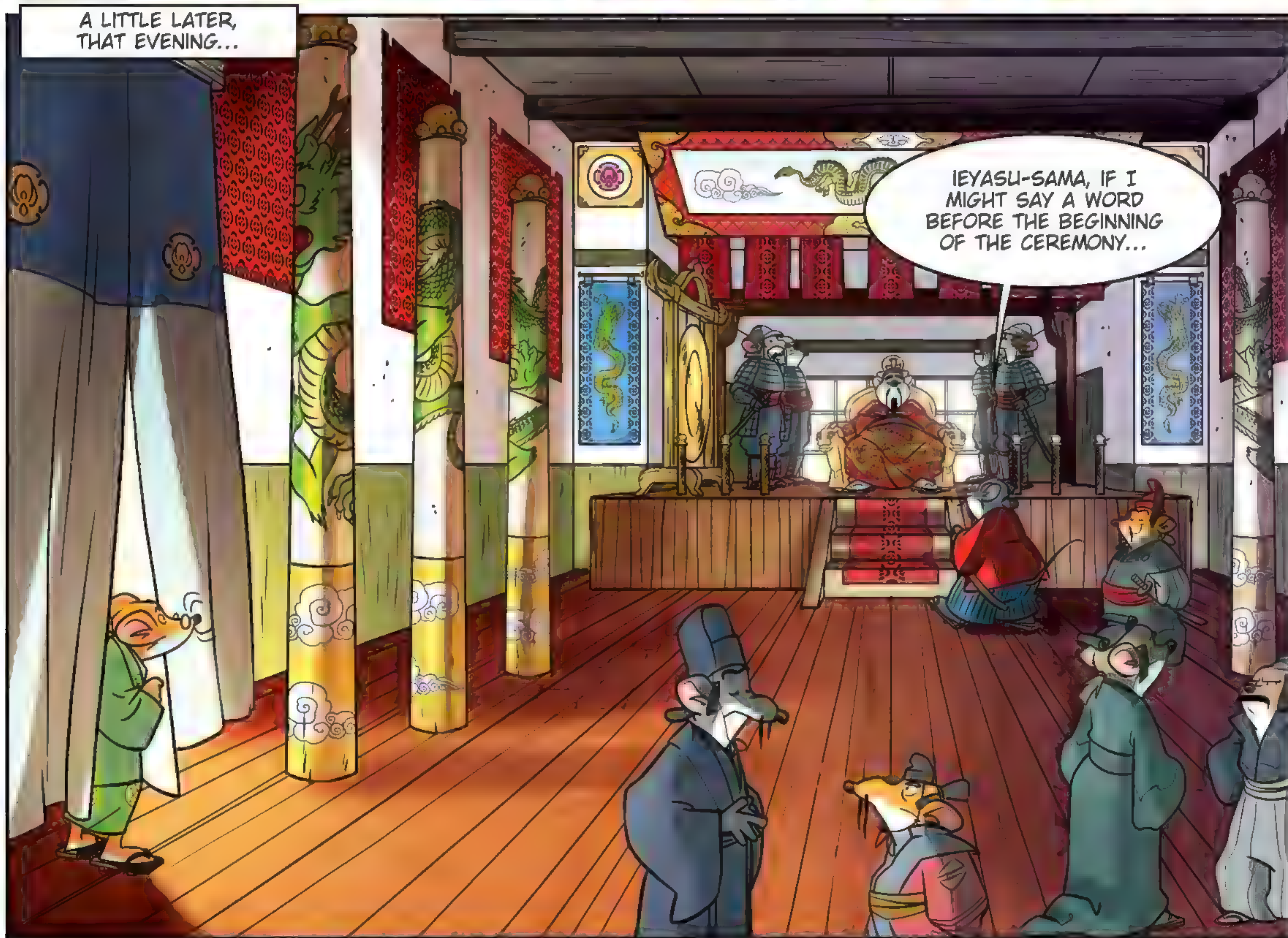
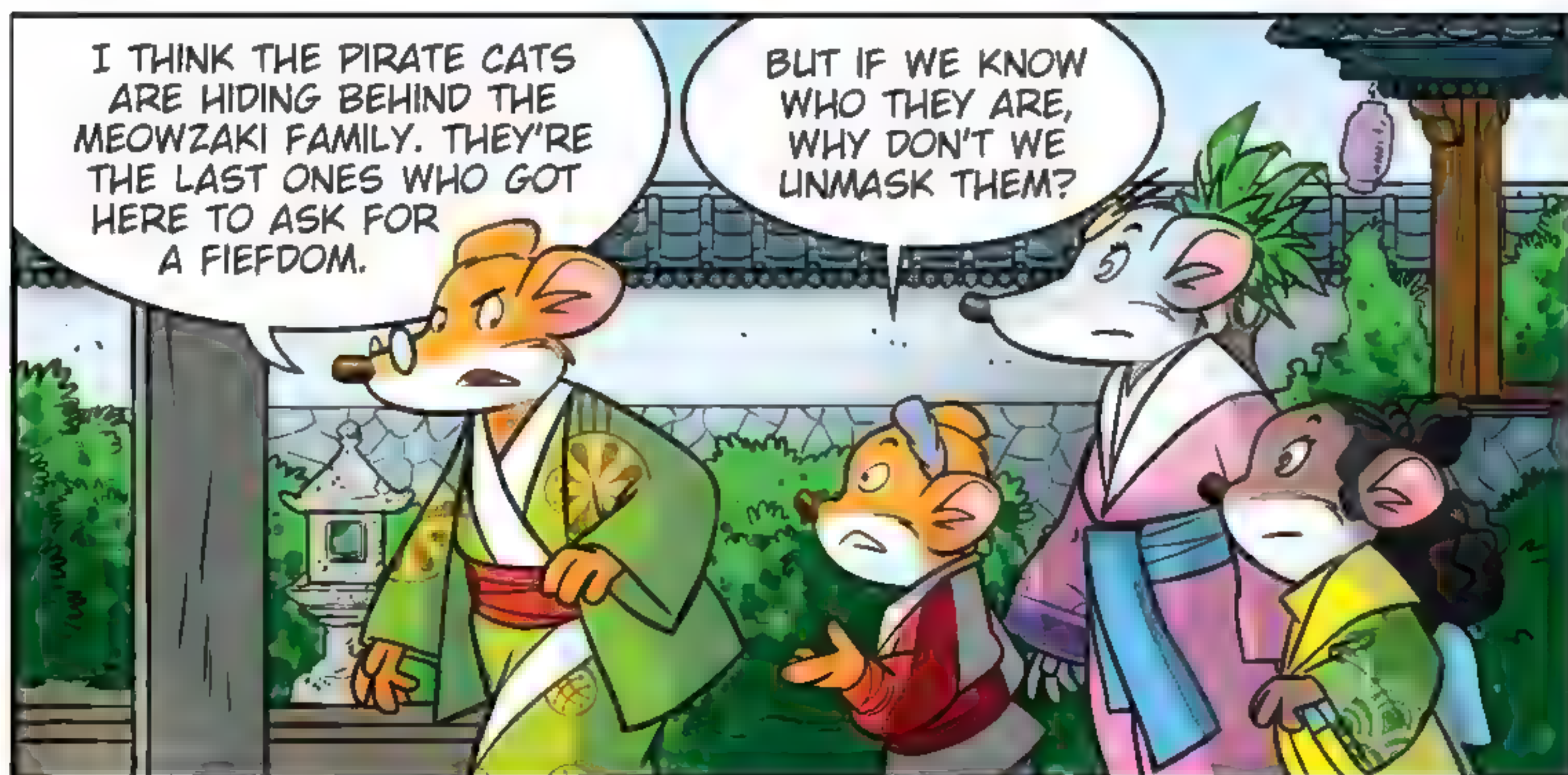
UNCLE,  
YOU HAVE TO  
GET READY!



WE MANAGED TO FIND  
TWO OF THE OLD COURT  
COMPANY'S **COSTUMES**.  
BUT YOU AND TRAP AT  
LEAST HAVE TO MAKE  
AN ATTEMPT NOW...

IN THE  
MEANTIME,  
ANY NEWS?

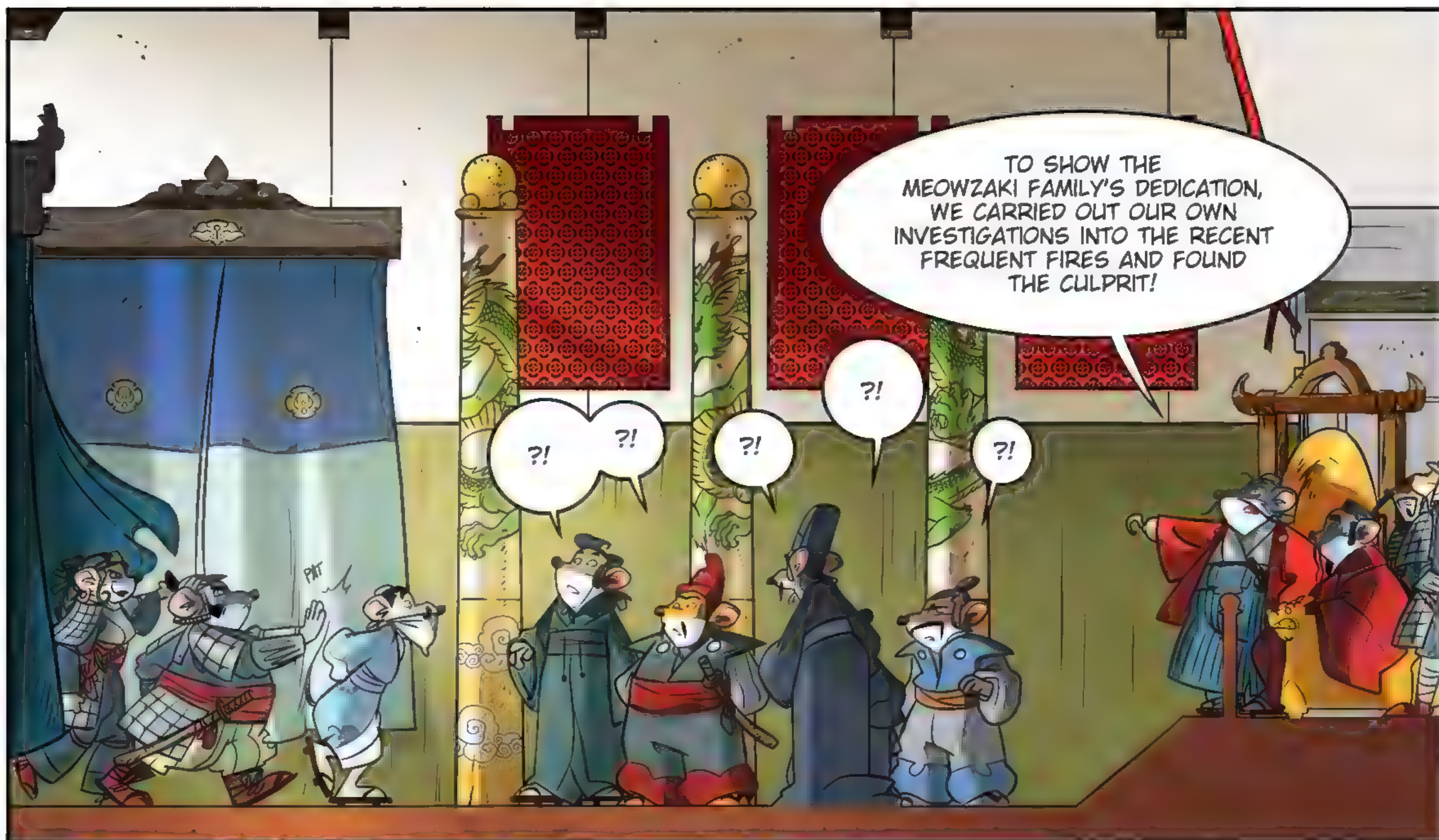
















AS YOU SEE, MY SHOGUN, WE HAVEN'T JUST FOILED A DIRECT THREAT TO EDO CASTLE, BUT, IF YOU AWARD THIS FIEFDOM TO THE MEOWZAKI FAMILY, THERE WILL BE NO MORE FIRES!

HMM...



YOU! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENSE?

I ADMIT I'M AN ABSENT-MINDED RAT, BUT I'M NOT AN ARSONIST!



JUST YESTERDAY, I PUT OUT ONE OF THE **FIRES** THAT HAD FLARED UP!

WE CAN TESTIFY TO THAT. HE WOKE US UP IMMEDIATELY!

→GULP.←



AND WHO'S TO SAY HE DIDN'T WAKE YOU UP AFTER STARTING THE FIRE?

OR THAT YOU AREN'T HIS ACCOMPLICES?



THIS IS GOING TO GO BADLY IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING....

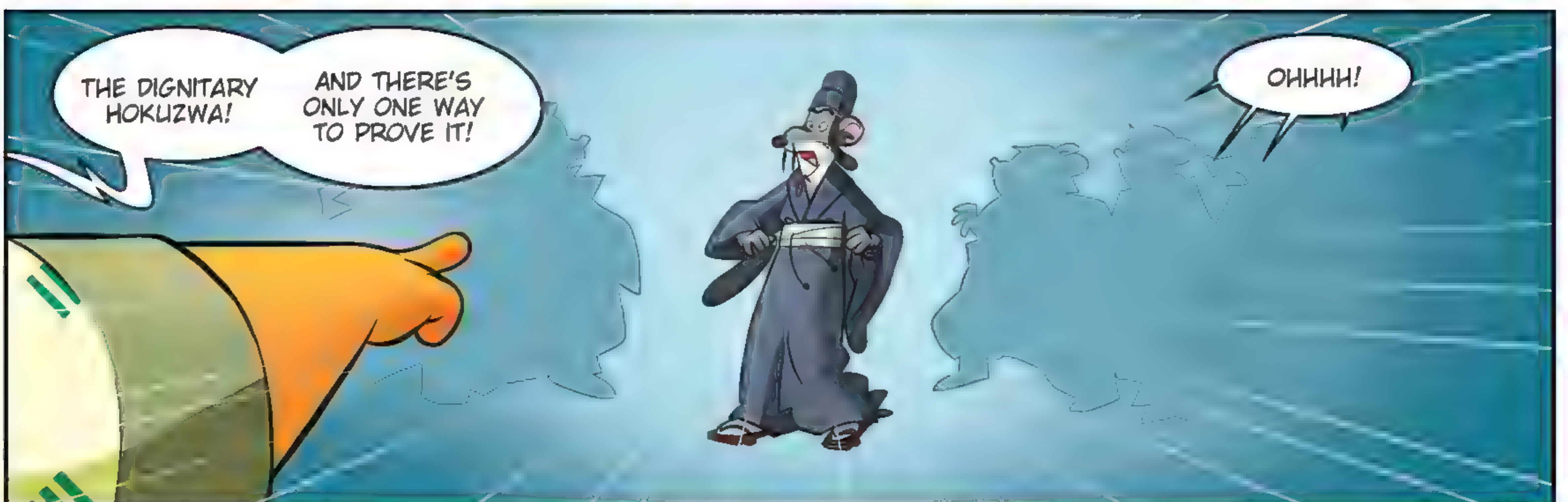
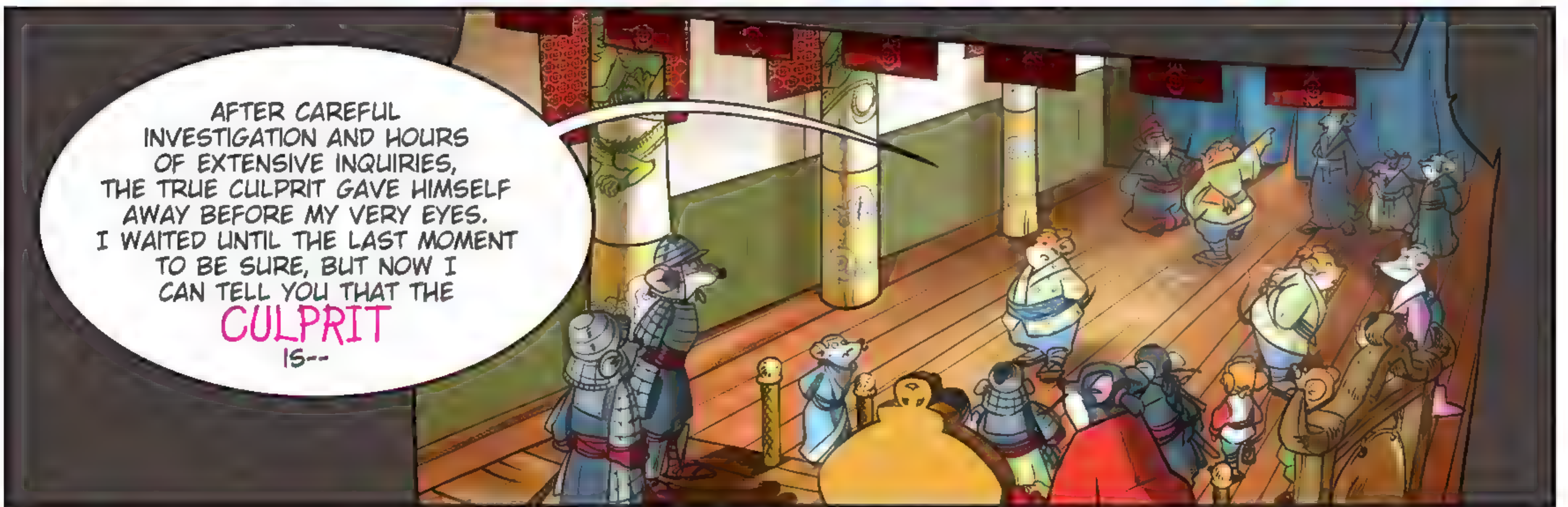
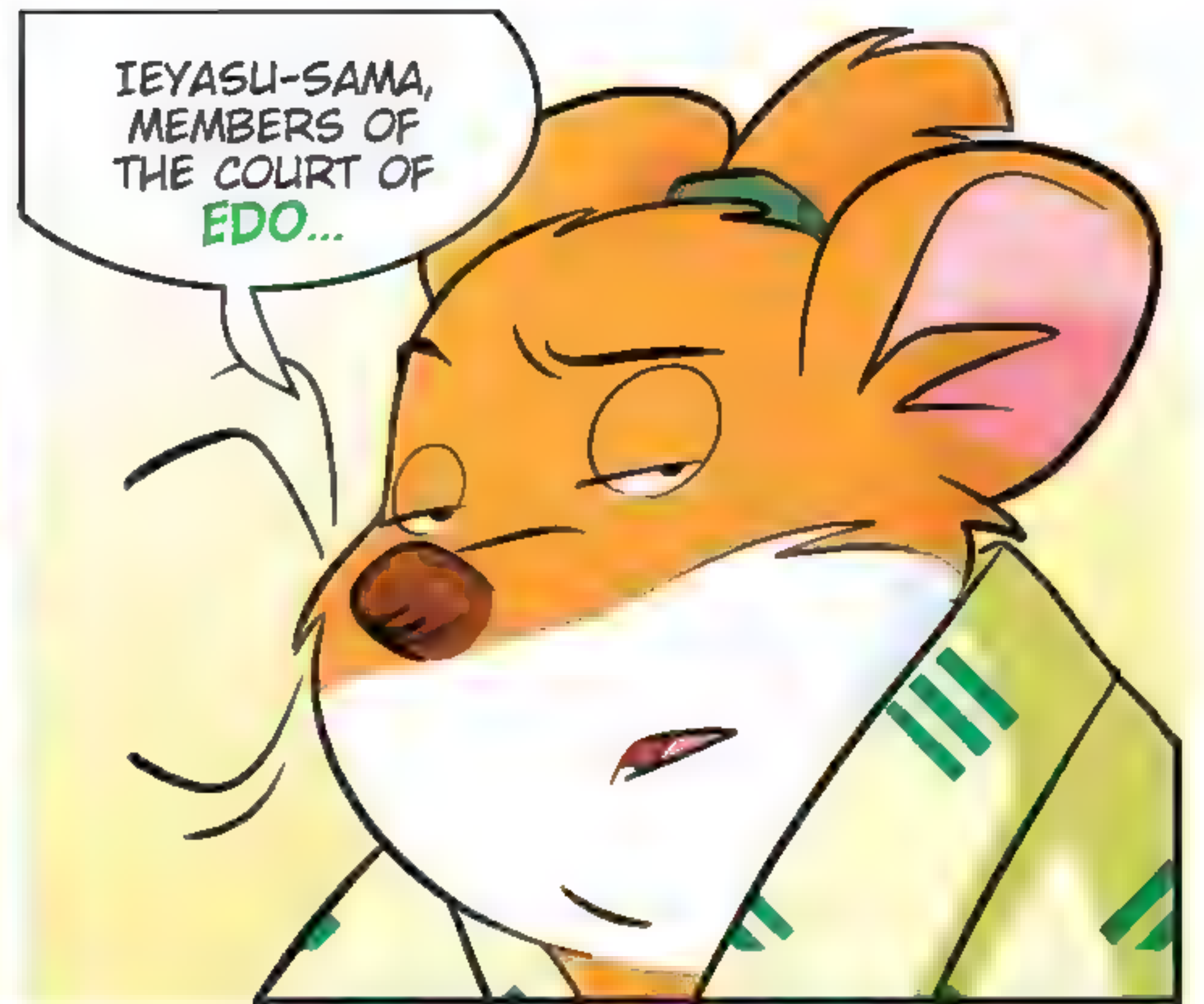


BUT WE HAVE PROOF!





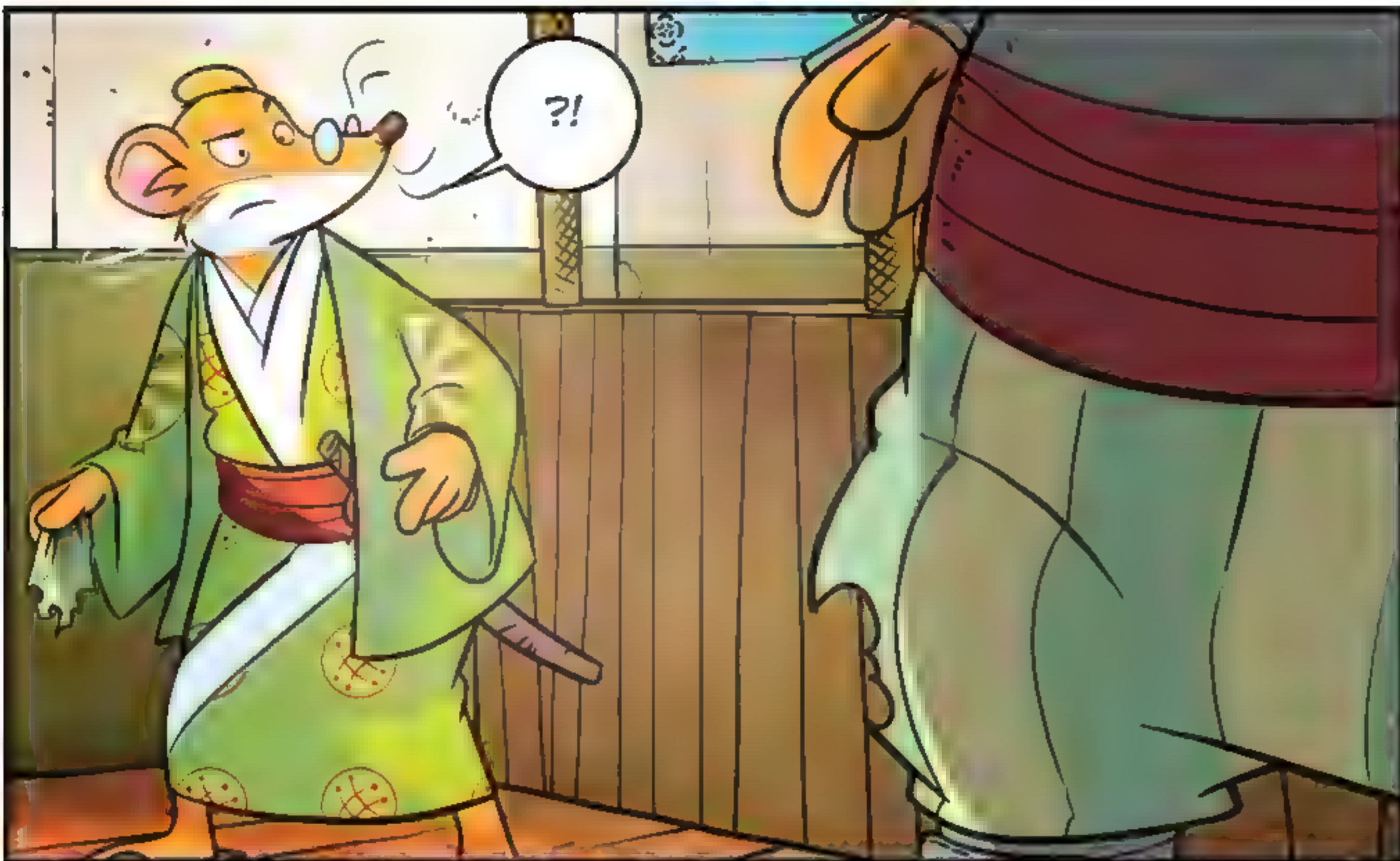




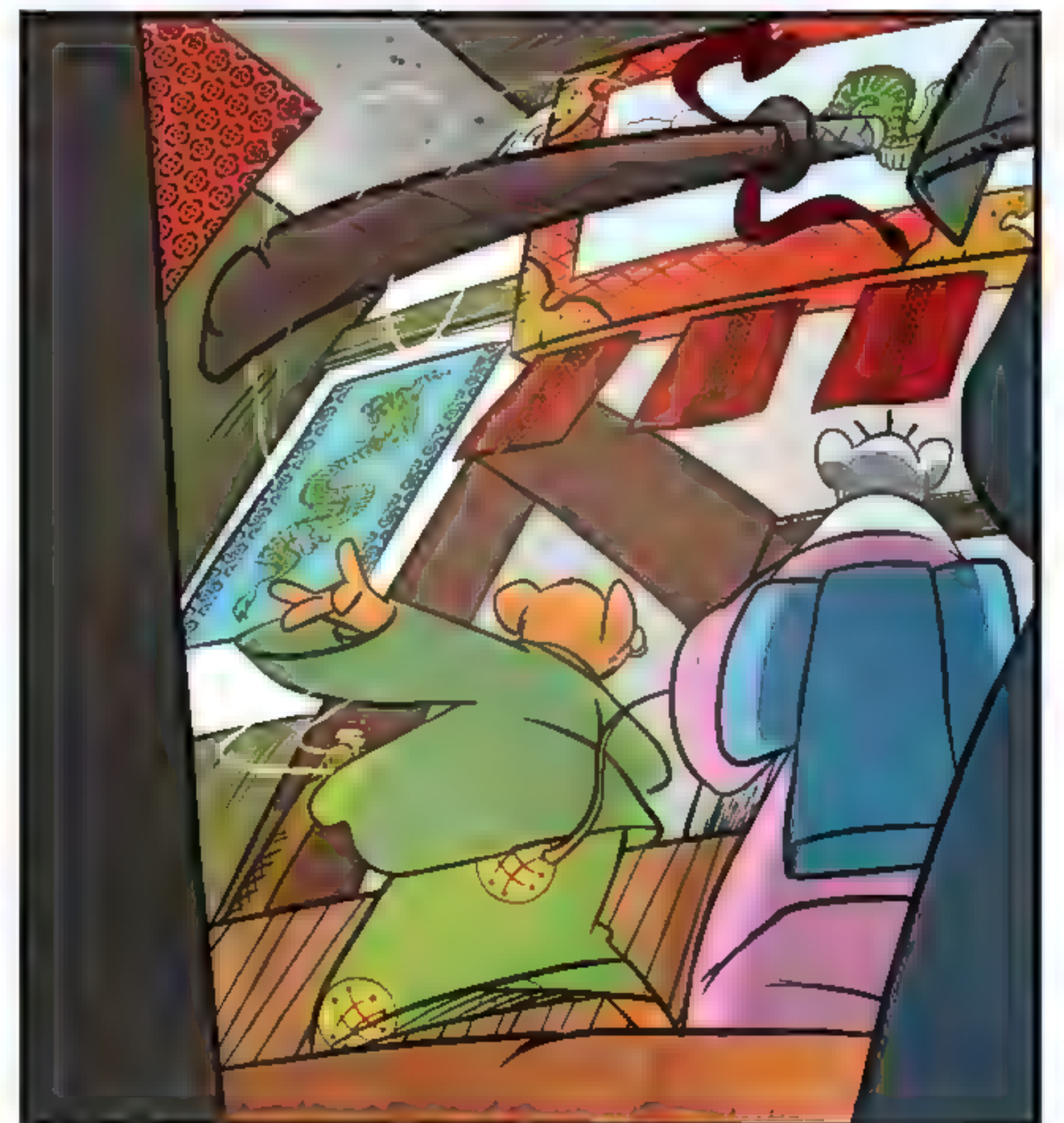






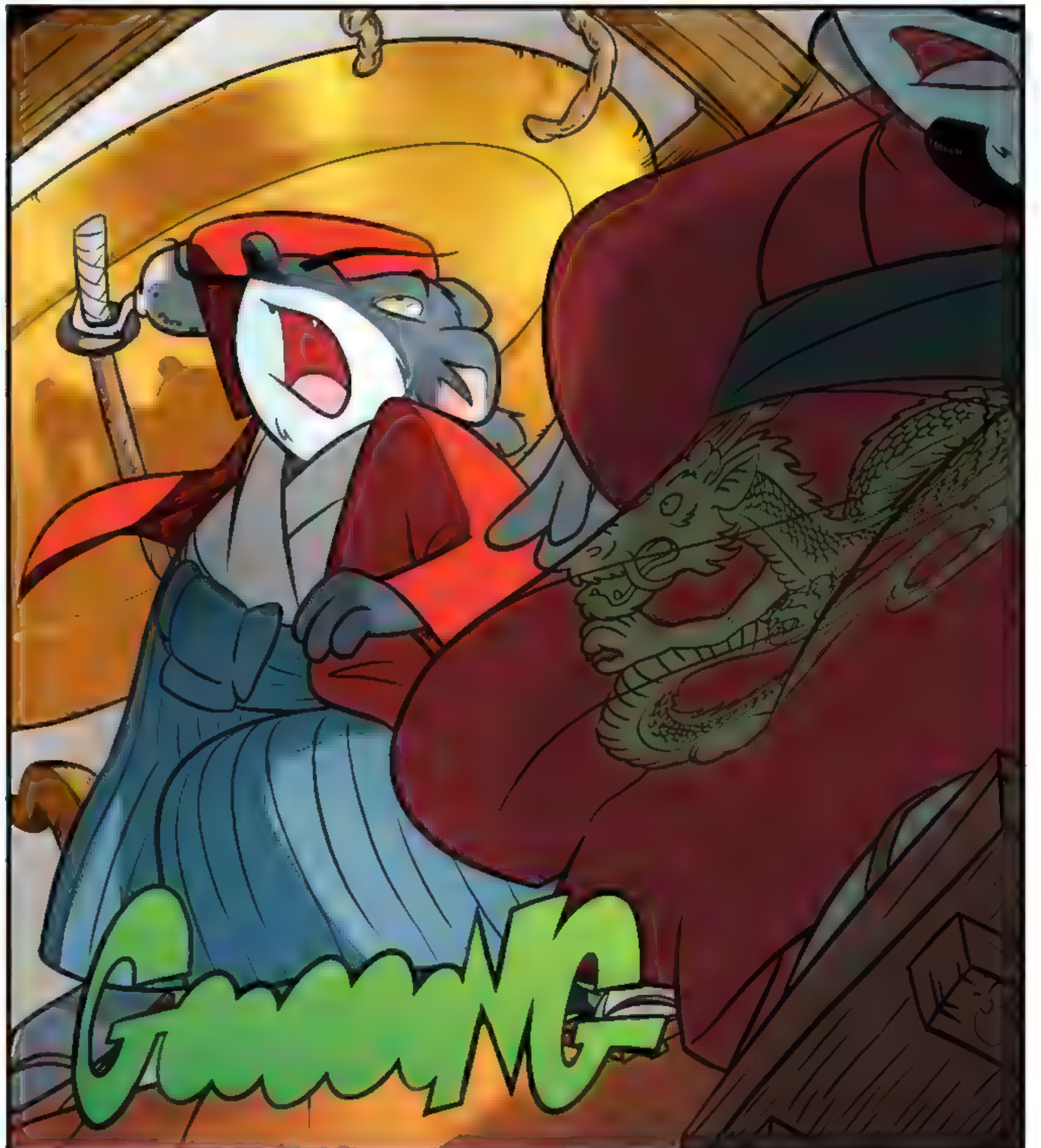
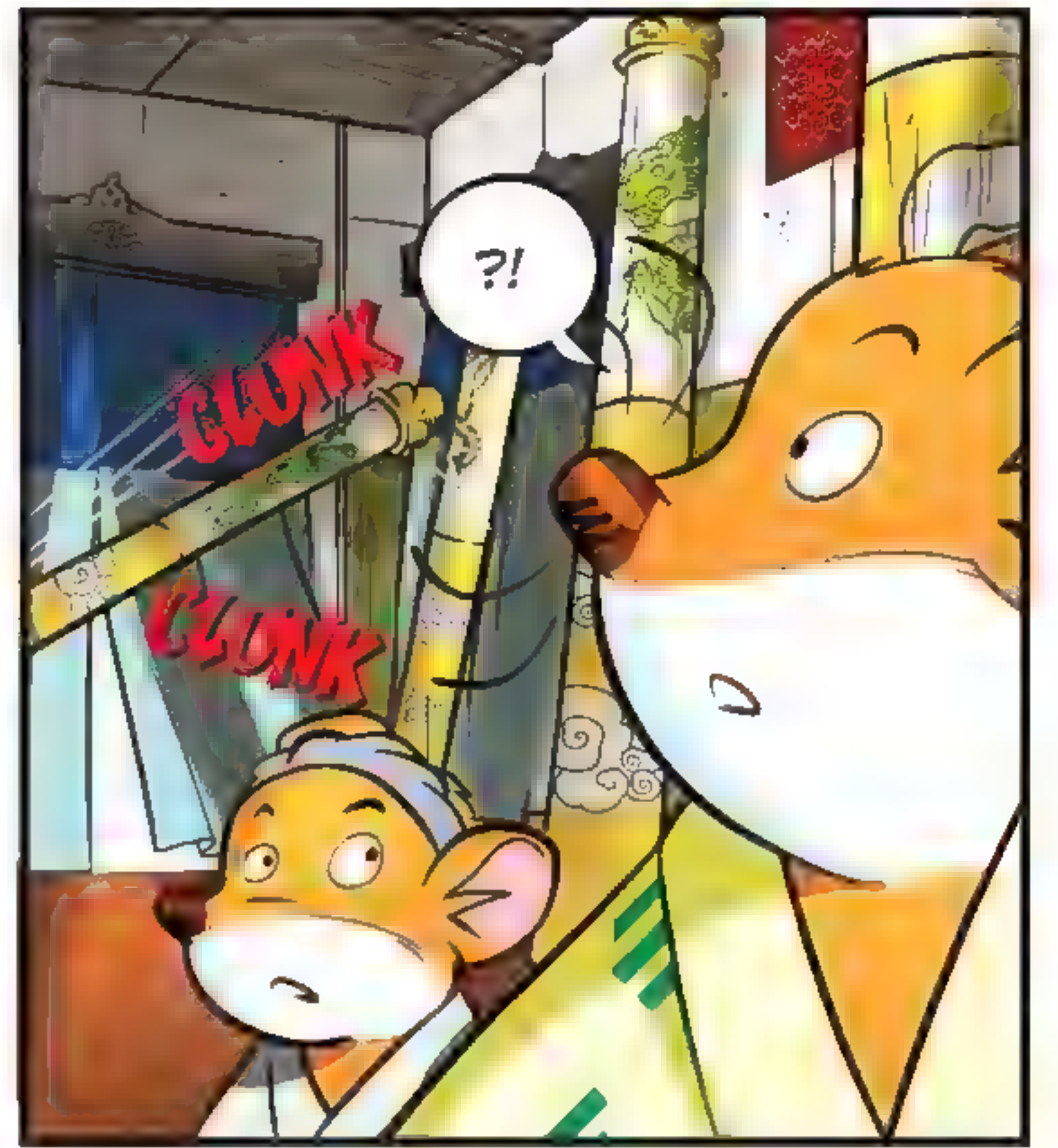






\*CRUSH HIM!







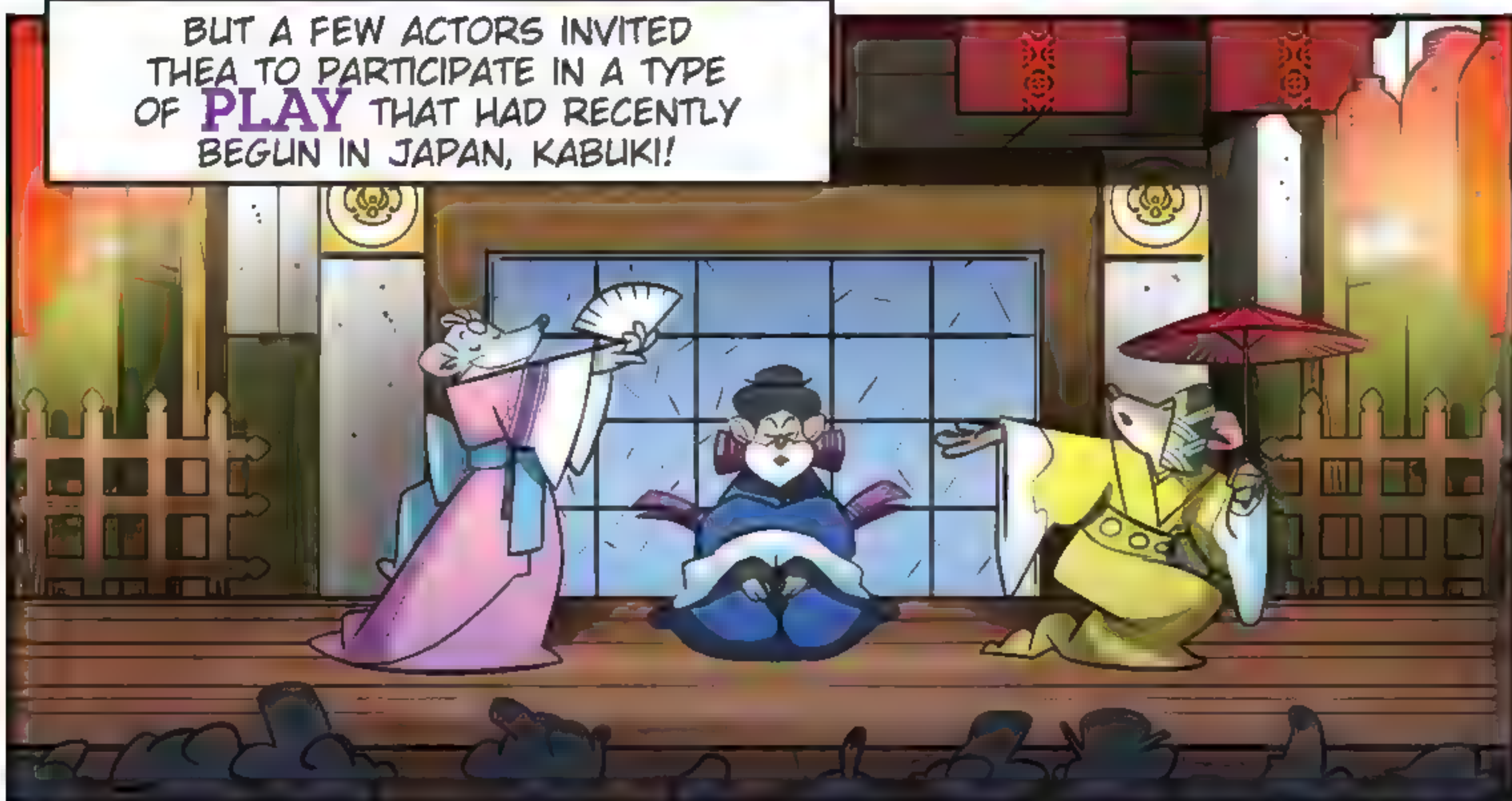




IN THE END, WE DIDN'T HAVE TO CREATE AN ARTISTIC ACT AT ALL:  
THE SHOGUN SAID THAT WE'D ALREADY DONE ENOUGH FOR THAT  
EVENING AND SHOULD JUST THINK ABOUT ENJOYING OURSELVES!

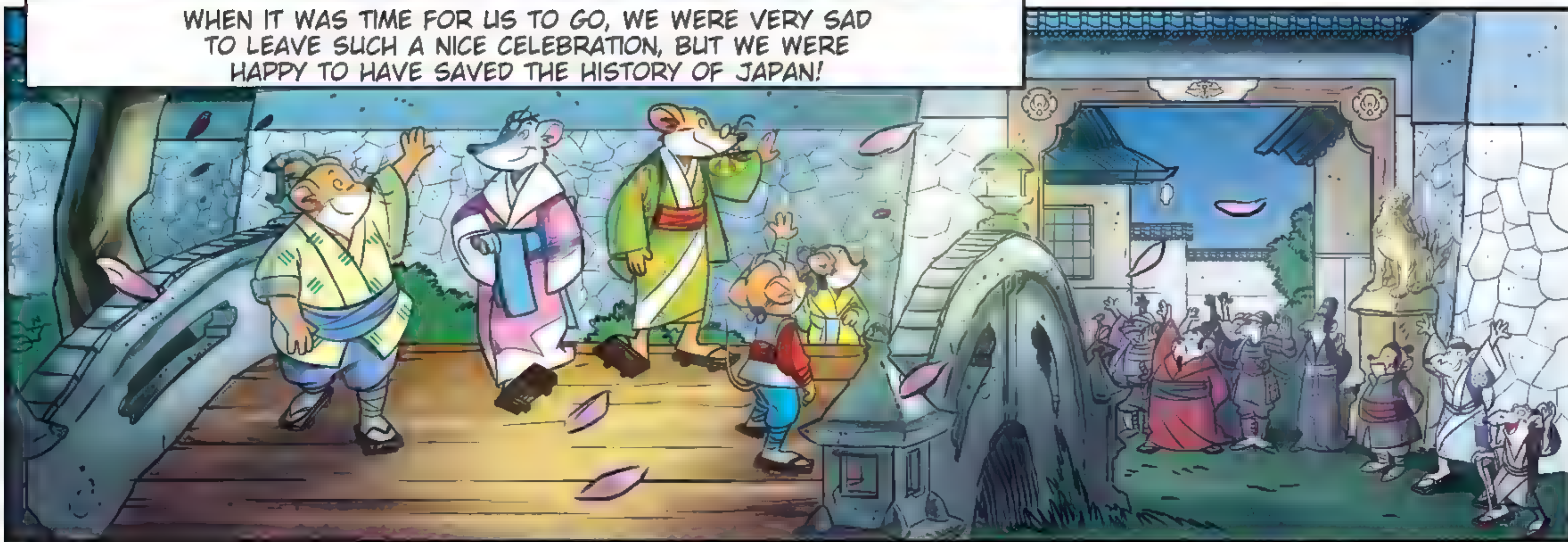


BUT A FEW ACTORS INVITED  
THEA TO PARTICIPATE IN A TYPE  
OF **PLAY** THAT HAD RECENTLY  
BEGUN IN JAPAN, KABUKI!

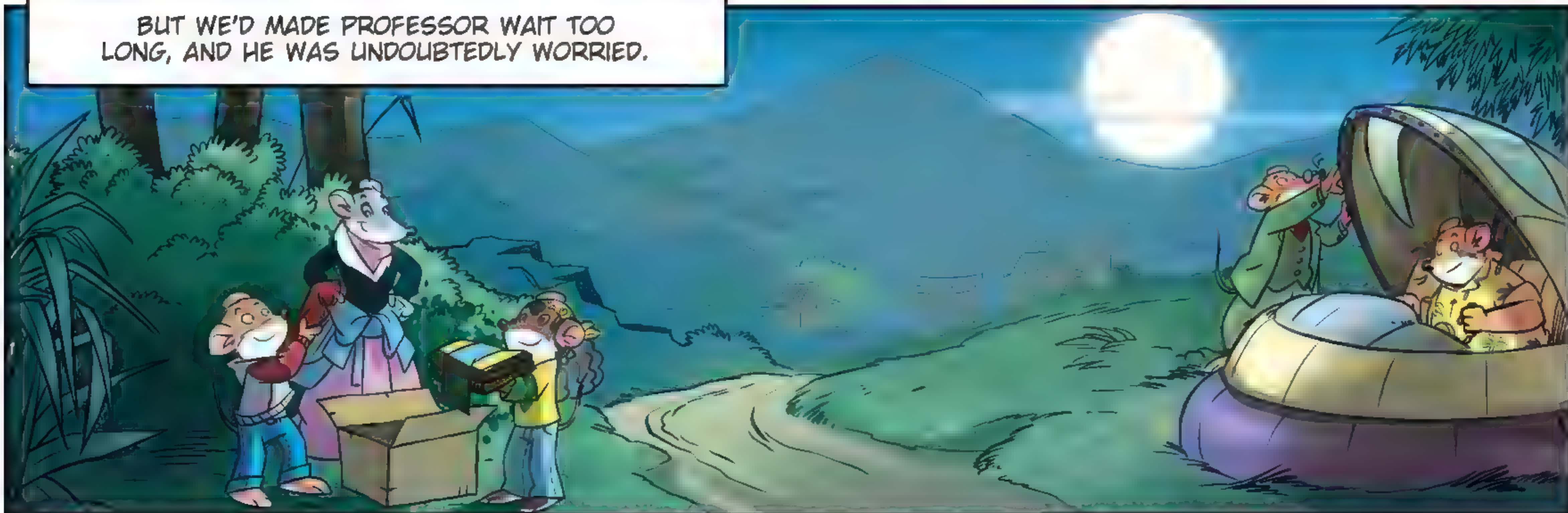


**KABUKI** -- A FORM OF  
POPULAR THEATER THAT  
BEGAN AT THE START OF  
1600, CHARACTERIZED BY A  
VERY ELABORATE STYLE, IN  
WHICH MUSIC AND DANCE ARE  
VERY IMPORTANT. IN THE  
BEGINNING, IT WAS ONLY  
PERFORMED BY WOMEN, BUT  
THEN MEN REPLACED THEM.  
KABUKI PLAYS RETELL THE  
DEEDS OF HISTORICAL  
FIGURES AND EVENTS THAT  
REALLY HAPPENED.

WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR US TO GO, WE WERE VERY SAD  
TO LEAVE SUCH A NICE CELEBRATION, BUT WE WERE  
HAPPY TO HAVE SAVED THE HISTORY OF JAPAN!



BUT WE'D MADE PROFESSOR WAIT TOO  
LONG, AND HE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY WORRIED.











## Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ

Welcome to the time-tripping twelfth GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, the cheese-loving folks dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup*, the Editor-in-Chief around here, happy that my job isn't even half as dangerous as being editor of The Rodent's Gazette!

Wow! I was thrilled just to know that this GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel would be taking place in Japan in 1603, but when I discovered that Thea Stilton was back, as well—I simply can't tell you how excited I was! **MOLDY MOZZARELLA!** THEA STILTON #1 "The Secret of Whale Island" is coming soon, and fans couldn't be any happier! While Thea actually does appear in the series, the real stars are the Thea Sisters, five students at Mouseford College, who want to become journalists like their hero, Thea Stilton! If you love Thea Stilton you'll want to pick up THEA STILTON #1 "The Secret of Whale Island"! Everyone's talking about how Thea may now become the real super-star in the Stilton family! Even if she sort of made a big boo-boo when she tried to perform...



The above scene is a great example of how much the world has changed! It's hard to believe that there was a time when women weren't allowed to become actors, and now, through the wonder of time travel, that same woman is such a successful journalist that she's inspiring a whole new generation of girls to follow in her footsteps.

But why should the Stiltons have all the fun? How would you like to take a short, quick trip through time? Simply turn the page and you'll see actual pages from the very next GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel in your future: "The Fastest Train in the West"! Ironically, your peek into the future is set in the Old West! That's what we love to call a Time Paradox, something that doesn't really make any sense. Something that should be impossible, yet there it is!

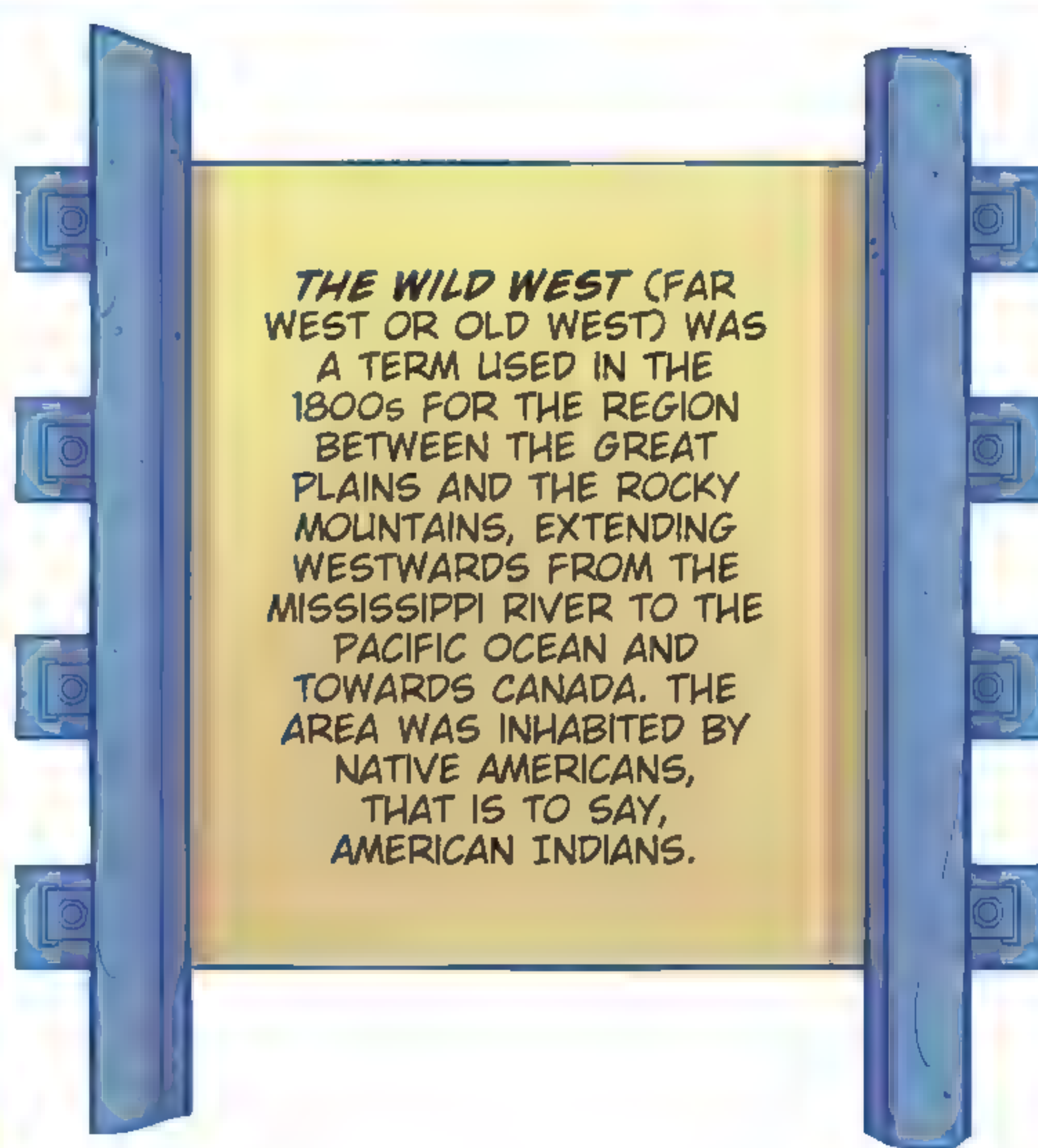
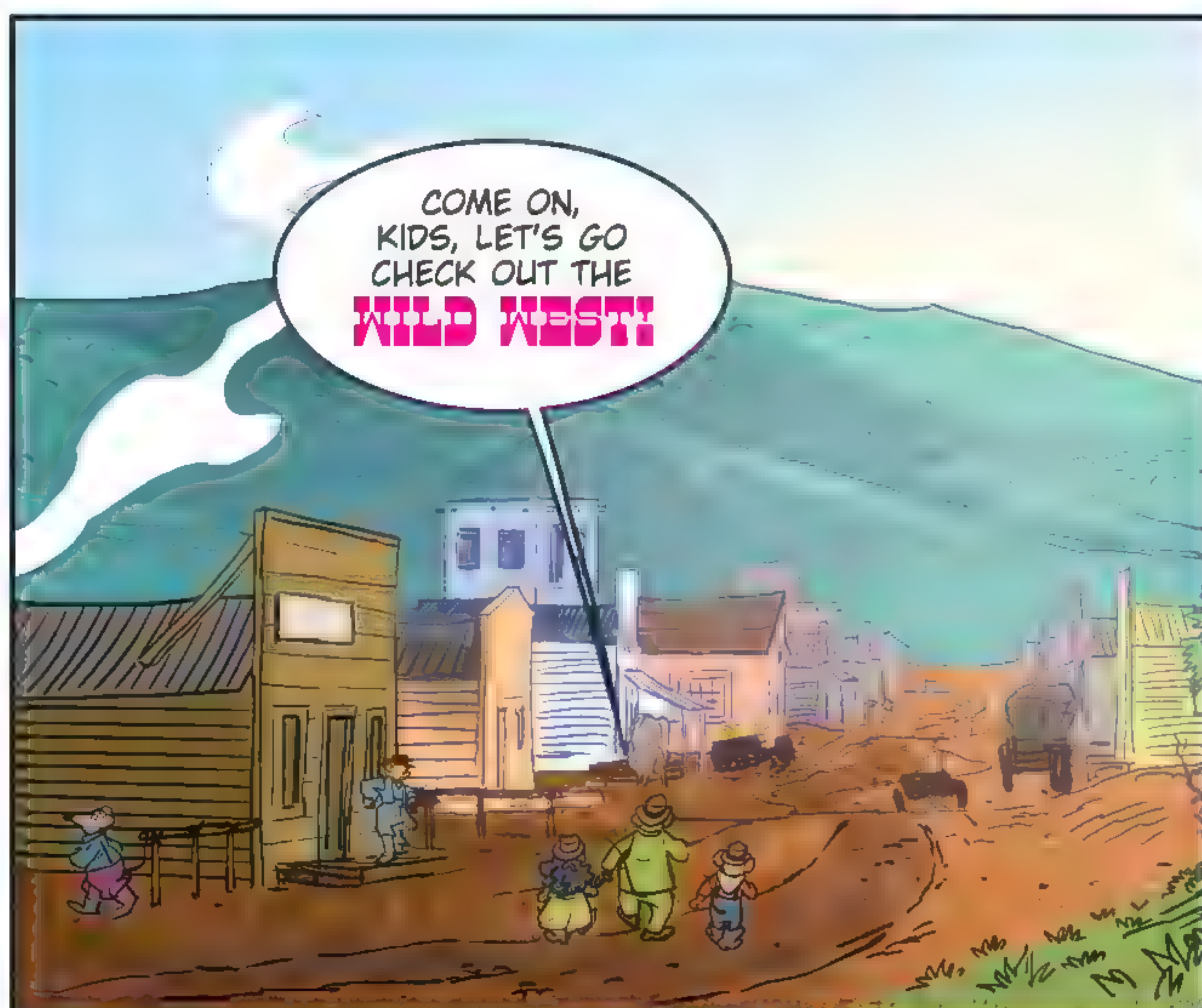
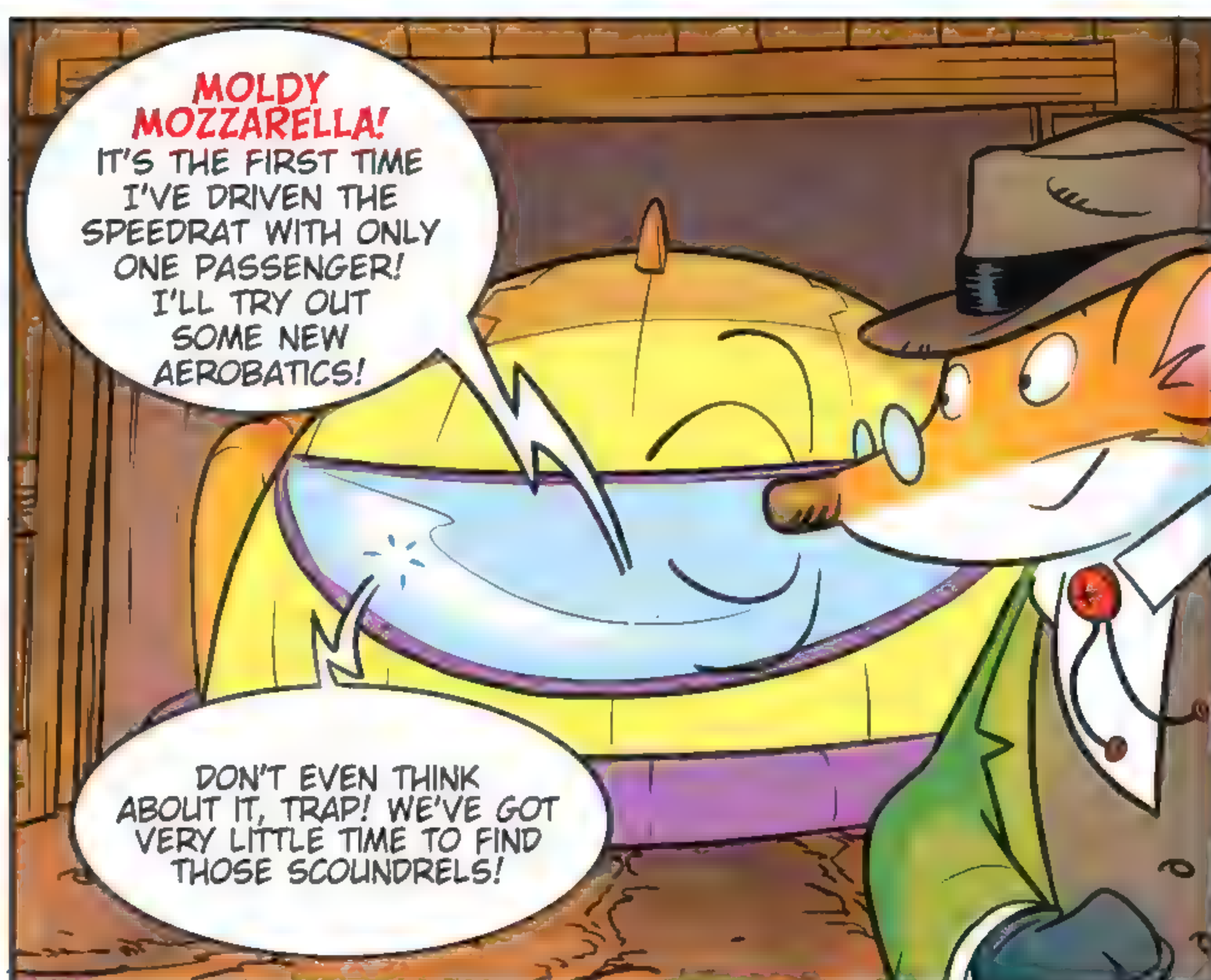
See you in the future!

*Jim*

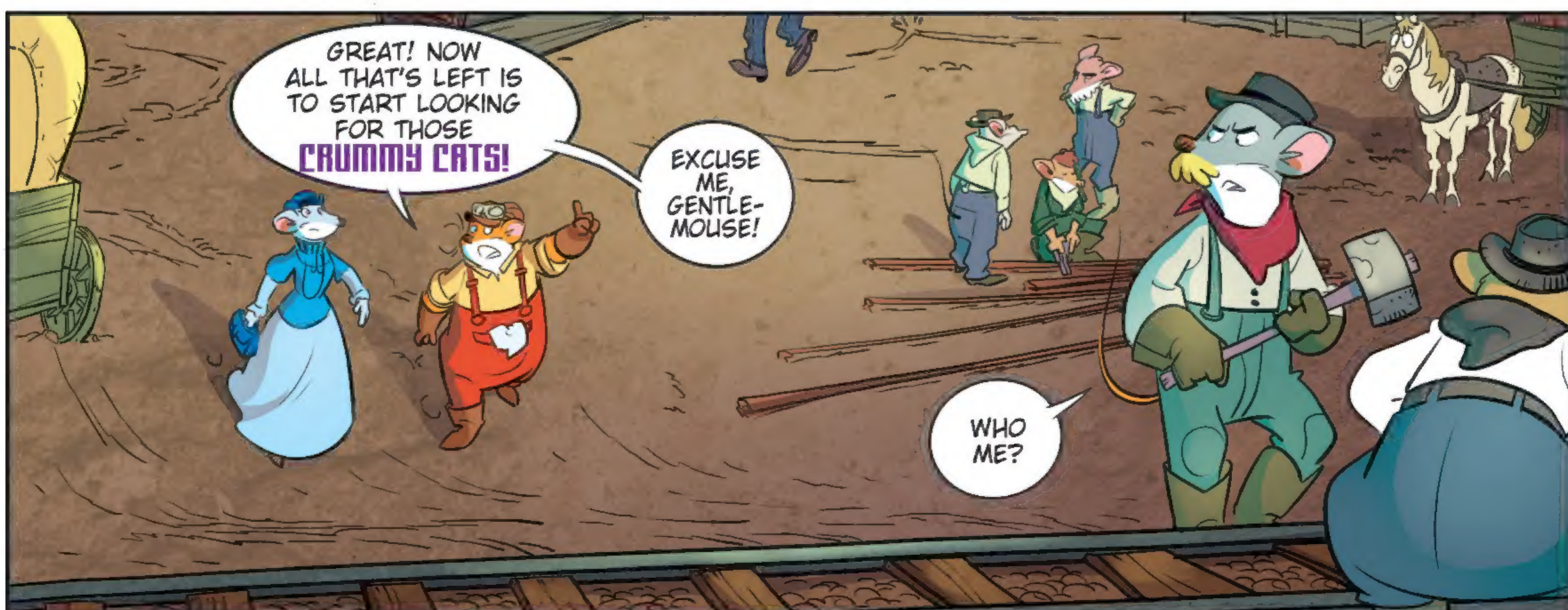
### STAY IN TOUCH!

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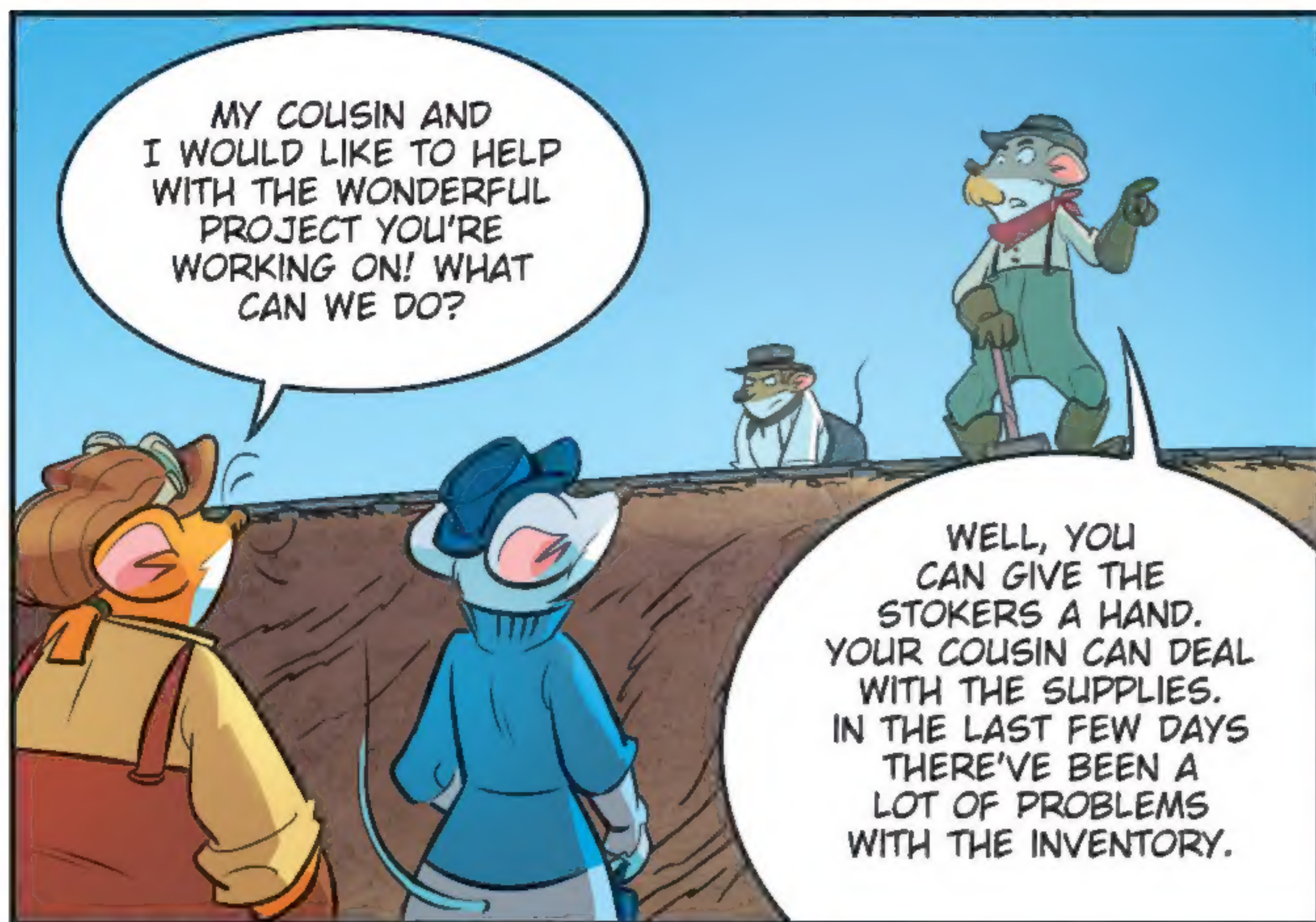












MY COUSIN AND I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE WONDERFUL PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON! WHAT CAN WE DO?

WELL, YOU CAN GIVE THE STOKERS A HAND. YOUR COUSIN CAN DEAL WITH THE SUPPLIES. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INVENTORY.



WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS?

THE CRATES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN SCRAMBLED. SOMETIMES IT TAKES A WHOLE DAY TO FIND THE PIECES WE NEED.



BETWEEN THESE GLITCHES, THE EXPLOSION IN THE **TUNNEL**, AND THE BAD WEATHER WHEN WE GOT HERE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!



OKAY! WE'LL START LOOKING HERE!

"LOOKING HERE" FOR WHAT?

NO, MY COUSIN MEANT WE'D START LOOKING FOR WORK HERE!

AH!



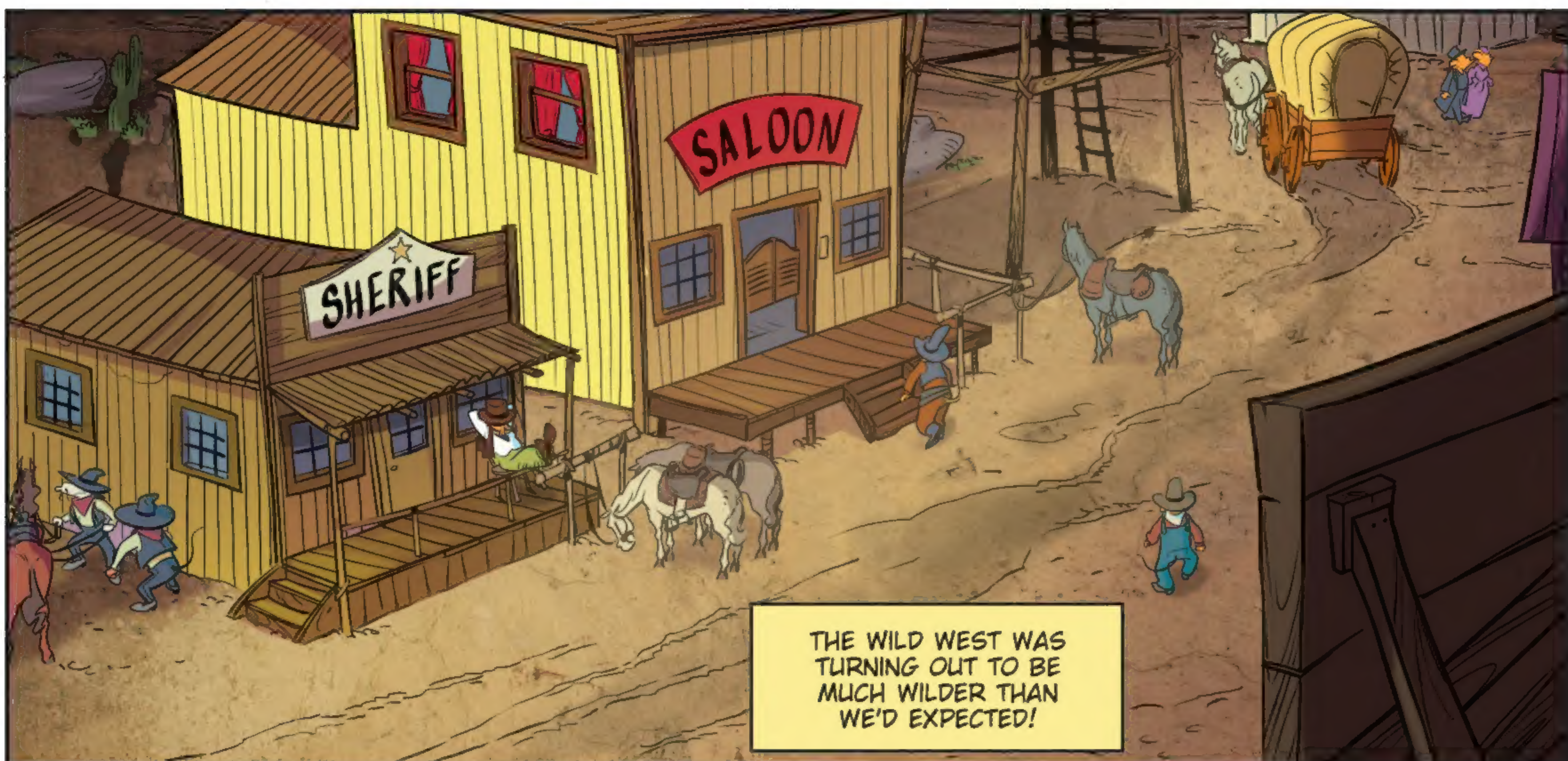
WE'RE SEEING THE PAW PRINTS OF THE PIRATE CATS HERE!

RIGHT! THEY MUST BE THE ONE WHO'VE CREATED THE CONFUSION WITH THE SUPPLIES.



I WONDER HOW GERONIMO'S FARING?





THE WILD WEST WAS  
TURNING OUT TO BE  
MUCH WILDER THAN  
WE'D EXPECTED!



REMEMBER,  
BROTHER, AS  
SOON AS YOU  
LEAVE, WE SPLIT  
UP. MEET AT THE  
OLD QUARRY!

HOLD  
ON! I'M  
ALMOST  
DONE!

HURRY UP  
WITH THAT  
KNOT! YOU  
DON'T WANT  
THE SHERIFF  
TO DISCOVER  
US?



HAIIII!



?!

Don't miss GERONIMO  
STILTON #13!



# Geronimo Stilton

**knows  
how to deal  
with annoying  
oranges!**

GERONIMO STILTON IS THE EDITOR OF THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND. IN HIS FREE TIME HE LOVES TO TELL FUN, HAPPY STORIES. IN THIS ADVENTURE, GERONIMO HAS TO FACE HIS WORST ENEMIES, THE PIRATE CATS, WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE HISTORY...

JAPAN, 1603. GERONIMO AND HIS FRIENDS DON'T KNOW WHY THE PIRATE CATS WENT BACK TO THIS PRECISE POINT IN TIME, BUT THEY ARE SURE THE PIRATE CATS ARE UP TO NO GOOD! POSING AS A TRAVELING TROUPE OF ACTORS, GERONIMO SOMEHOW MANAGES TO CONVINCE THE LOCALS THAT HE'S REALLY A SHOGUN, AND NOT THE FIRST SAMURAI! WILL GERONIMO BE ABLE TO UNCOVER THE PIRATE CATS' PLAN IN TIME TO STOP THEM? OR HAVE THE PIRATE CATS FINALLY WON?

"Geronimo fans will eat this up quicker than a wheel of cheddar."

**-Washington Times**

"Is it fact? Is it fiction? It's faction, and it's fun!" **-Shelf-Employed**



**PAPERCUT<sup>TM</sup>**

Dedicated to publishing great  
graphic novels for all ages.

[www.geronimostilton.com](http://www.geronimostilton.com)